

No 9 o'clock Mass Sunday!  
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(5 special intentions requested in your prayers.)

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
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Our Greatest Grace.

Give your blood for the boys.  
who offer their lives for you.  
(2100 pledges in; 800 more  
needed to win over all.)

By far the most important and the greatest grace we will receive is the grace of final perseverance--dying in the state of grace. But we can't be absolutely certain we'll receive it, because strictly speaking we can't merit it.

Tomorrow we celebrate the feast of The Seven Sorrows of Mary, the patronal feast of the Perpetual Novena we make each Friday night. The Evil Spirit promised the first Eve: "You will be as gods." Mary, the second Eve, promises us through the Holy Spirit: "You will be God-like."

Our Blessed Mother merited the title of co-redemptrix and thus won her title of universal mediatrix, which privileges we understand as in, with, and through her divine Son. In the encyclical Miserentissimus Redemptor Pope Pius XI consecrated the title of Mary Reparatrix and confirmed the doctrine of her universal mediation of all graces we receive.

#### The Second Half Of The Hail Mary.

Whenever we pray the Hail Mary we beg this grace of final perseverance from Mary. If we say the rosary daily we ask this grace of her 53 times. The rosary said daily for a month means we have asked her this "great grace" 1,590 times. If we live out our average life's span of 67 years, we can figure out ourselves the hundreds of thousand of times we plead for a happy death: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen." Live with your rosary; say it daily.

#### The One Failure In Life.

We may not enjoy good health, or raise a happy family, or be the most popular man in our parish; we may live a long life blessed with this world's goods or blessed without them; we may lose every battle, but if we die in the state of grace we will have won the war.

There is only one real but tragic failure in life--and that is not to die in the state of grace, not to die God's friend.

Time and time again the Bulletin points out the importance of acquiring the habit of living in the state of grace. This habit of avoiding mortal sin, and the more fervent habit of avoiding deliberate venial sins, is what we can do to predispose ourselves to receive this "great grace."

The theological explanation, though technical, is this. We cannot merit the very principle of merit itself, which is sanctifying grace and perseverance in that state. Just as we can't strictly merit the first grace of conversion, we can't merit the last.

For this reason, if for no other, we stake our salvation on God's wonderful mercy and Mary's powerful mediation. The final outcome will depend on God and how we live to predispose ourselves to receive FINAL PERSEVERANCE.

The virtue of hope assures us that God will provide if we cooperate with the untold actual graces we receive to persevere in prayer, make good confessions, avoid occasions of sin, assist at Mass, receive Holy Communion, fulfill the duties of our state in life, etc.

Our Blessed Mother knows what we need and our greatest need. She has received from God a universal mission to help us all NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.

Prayers: deceased Mr. Roy Grimmer. Ill, Sr. M. Bernard; grandmother of Bob Hoodecheck.