

A Thought For First Friday

It is significant that in this Marian Year Pope Pius X, who popularized frequent reception of Communion, is to be canonized. It is equally significant that here at Notre Dame, we have a little corner of our country called "Our Lady's household, and that her sons break the Bread of Life with daily regularity.

The association is fitting; you can't separate Mother and Son. He would remind you of His Mother. She would lead you to Her Son.

You recall the preliminary apparitions of the Angel of Fatima, and how he called himself the "Angel of Peace." He bade the children pray:

"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love  
You! I beg pardon of You for those who do not  
believe, do not adore, and do not hope, and do  
not love You! "

On his third visit the Angel held high a chalice over which the Host was suspended. Drops of blood fell from the Host into the chalice. Then the Angel, leaving the Host suspended in mid-air, adored the Eucharist with the most humble of genuflections. Then as he gave the Host to Lucy and the chalice to her little companions, Francis and Jacinta, he cried:

"Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ,  
horribly outraged by ungrateful men. Make repara-  
tion for their crimes and console your God."

It was another great command to receive Holy Communion. It was the call to frequent Communion as part of the whole magnificent devotion through Our Lady of Fatima for peace, and the conversion of the world.

Thus, the story of Fatima is not merely the apparition of the Blessed Virgin to the three children. It is a Eucharistic Crusade as well. Here at Notre Dame we find the twin devotion quite natural. And that is as it should be. We have not been able to move along far with one -- without absorbing the other.

That's why you should start out this new semester of the Marian Year by receiving Communion daily. It is especially appropriate that you start with the First Friday of the Month -- the day especially devoted to reparation -- as the Angel of Fatima explained to the children.

First Friday At Notre Dame

There will be Adoration all day in Sacred Heart Church. If the autumn months with all their distractions prevented your praying as much as you should have prayed, start now with the quiet of this February First Friday. Sign up for half an hour. You're very fortunate to be at Notre Dame, and in this atmosphere during the Marian Year. Make the most of it. This is so important that God gave us a sign from Heaven. What more could you ask for? In the light of your past sins, this could be very much in order!

Prayers Requested

Deceased: father of Sister Madeleva, CSC; father of Father McCarragher, CSC;  
Frances Murphy (Alumnus). Ill: Father Thomas Crumley, CSC.