

Tonight: Closing of the  
Forty Hours Devotion, at  
6:45 in Sacred Heart Church.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
March 2, 1954

Tomorrow: Distribution of  
Ashes in all halls. In Dillon  
at 12:45 and at 7 p.m.

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Tomorrow Is Ash Wednesday

"Remember man that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return."

Tomorrow morning, the priest will bless ashes made from the palms used last Palm Sunday, almost a year ago. You will recall their triumphal part in the procession in the liturgy, and the chanting of the multitudes: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!"

Tomorrow, the triumphal palms will become ashes. It is the Church's way of reminding us that we, together with the beauty, the power, the wealth in our lives, will all wind up as nothingness; and that death is inevitable.

This is the Church's introduction to the penitential season of Lent. It is a reminder of death -- and then the Judgment! While there is yet time, we are urged to make the most of our opportunities for penance, because: "Unless you do penance, you shall all likewise perish!"

A Straightforward Directive

No matter who you are -- saint or sinner - you're included in that directive. It is couched in the most unmistakable language possible; and no fancy Dan will squirm loose from its all-inclusive area. Make no mistake about it -- no one is exempted from doing penance. It's a basic requirement for your eternal salvation.

Our holy mother, the Church, is interested in you and your eternal salvation -- sometimes more interested than you yourself are! She sets aside these 40 days for the express purpose of penance; and she specifies what the penance should be -- what you should do to fulfill this requirement.

"But We're Exempted..."

Here at Notre Dame, some thoughtless individuals -- looking only to the exemption from the prescribed fast and abstinence granted by our good bishop -- forget to substitute other penance of their own choosing. For them the Bulletin repeats: No one can exempt you from doing penance; no one, not even the Pope. If no one in all this world, is exempted, then neither are you.

Some Suggestions

First and foremost comes daily Mass and Communion. Self-denial is involved here by getting up promptly. On the positive side, the fruits of daily Communion and holy Mass will bring a spiritual income that will amaze you on Judgment Day! They will likewise provide a neat reserve against the daily battles with numerous temptations.

The Bishop himself reminds us that our exemption from fast and abstinence is predicated on the presumption that we attend the Lenten Devotions which will be held in Sacred Heart Church on the Wednesday evenings beginning March 10; that we recite the Rosary; that we make use of daily adoration; that we abstain from amusements; that we give alms; that we make the Stations of the Cross; that we attend the Novena Services, etc. Be faithful to your penances. You're helping yourself most, you know!

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Lenten Missals; The Class Chaplains have a number of small, handy, paper-bound Lenten Missals, by Father Stedman to help you with the Lenten Liturgy (50¢).  
The regular St. Andrew Missal is also available (\$4.50).