

Tonight at 6:45, the
Novena to the Sorrowful
Mother.

University of Notre Dame
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Tomorrow: First Saturday
Fatima Devotions in private.

Passiontide

As you enter the church, this Sunday, you will note that the crucifixes, statues, pictures, etc., are draped in violet. From now until Holy Saturday the Church concentrates on the sufferings and death of Our Lord. At Mass the psalm, Judica is not said. The Gloria is omitted from the Asperges and elsewhere. The Preface is of the Cross. We are now entering upon the most solemn part of Lent.

If you would make these last two weeks more meaningful in your own lives, renew the Lenten penances you shouldered on Ash Wednesday -- more especially if they slipped away from you in an unguarded moment. Remember: the essence of sanctity lies in humility. And for you, that may mean not so much a boasting of how faithfully you have kept to your penances -- but rather a constant picking yourself up from the floor after repeated failures. God is a great judge of effort, rather than of accomplishment. That truth in itself is a comforting recall at this time.

And Don't Forget This:

The greatest form of charity toward our fellowmen is not so much a handout, or a lending of assistance in some material form -- as it is in securing the eternal salvation of a neighbor. After all, helping a fellow into heaven has no equal in the realm of good works.

This you can do by encouraging the lukewarm, helping the spiritual down-and-outer back to his religious obligations, persuading him to live up to his religious teachings, or by lending your good influence in a number of other ways that will help to bring back the "strays." It may not be easy, but it's apostolic.

And then again, it may not be so hard at all. And you may do the job much better in any number of isolated cases than can the Prefect of Religion, or the Chaplains, or a number of other people who irritate more than they persuade. But look about you. If you spot someone in need of a little assistance, because he is out of line with the Church, or the Lenten season, or a little shy on the matter of Sunday Mass, or reception of the Sacraments -- do something about it. We are our brother's keeper, you know. If you have any weight to throw around -- this is the territory, and this is the time to go into action.

Next weekend, the Seniors will have a Closed Retreat -- by their own request, and with Father Lord, S.J., presiding. All the other halls on campus will enjoy a weekend of Recollection (a little retreat) under the direction of hall rectors. See to it that you participate -- you and your neighbors, every one of them! It will be the best preparation in the world for the Easter Holidays. Don't miss it!

Intention For April

The general intention for the month of April recommended by Pope Pius XII for the Apostleship of Prayer is "Parish Priests."

"Oh!" you retort, "priests don't need prayers; it's their job to pray for the rest of us. We're the sinners. They're the holy men!"

Don't forget that their responsibilities and worries are many; their duties are onerous and exhausting; they are advisers and teachers, builders and managers, preachers of the Word and directors of spiritual societies. To do all these things well, they must be men of prayer, generous, prudent, wise, patient, and inspiring. In all these virtues they need the help of our prayers; and the Holy Father asks us to pray with him for these, his helpers throughout the world.