

-----  
The Polite Irish

Craftsmen of the ancient world developed a high degree of skill in working gold and silver vessels. When a particularly fine piece was finished, the artisan would rub it until it was politus (polished). But the barbarians who conquered the Old World empire had little care for the niceties of life. It made no difference to them whether a vessel was politus or not, so the word dropped from use.

About the end of the 14th century, churchmen revived the practice of polishing ecclesiastical ware. Looking about for a term to describe a burnished piece, they borrowed the old Latin word, and modified it to polite. From the care and effort expended on polite gold and silver vessels, the word came to be associated with elegance, and refinement, and good manners. By the middle of the 18th century, the word was being used to mean courtesy in general.

We thought the exegesis above might be timely, since most of you will be on the road this weekend. In a way you'll be on display; and so will Notre Dame, and Notre Dame manners, and ideals, and values -- whether you care to have it that way or not. See that you leave a trail of politeness behind you. Remember, only the barbarians had no regard for politeness. Today they'd be labeled hicks.

Politeness toward God calls for attendance at Mass -- the entire Mass, mind you -- on Sunday and on Monday. No matter where you go, find out where the churches are and the hours for Mass. Ignorance of these details may explain, but will not excuse your missing Mass while traveling. Remember: the genuine Irish are polite toward God above all others. And they aren't bashful about it either.

Hit The Box

Most travelers are smart about insurance because they want to be prepared for any emergency. They invest a pittance and reap financial security. See that you are as sharp about spiritual bargains. In case of accident, it would be best for you to be covered with a mantle of sanctifying grace. In eternity, you'll find it the best sort of policy -- it does so thoroughly the job that must be done; and takes care of so many contingencies.

Hence, make sure you leave the campus in the state of grace. It will also help you to avoid booby-traps enroute. It will even purify the air that you breathe. And for all your edifying conduct abroad, the Golden Dome will shine a little brighter on your return.

We'd like to offer one more word of caution before you take to the road: Be temperate in your diet. But somehow, it doesn't sound necessary -- this sort of advice to mature men! And yet, for one reason or another, we keep recalling the fact that our first parents ate themselves out of house and home!

Saturday Morning -- Late Communion in Dillon until 9:00 only.

For Those Who Remain On Campus

All Masses will be celebrated (even for Seniors) in Sacred Heart Church at the usual time ~~on~~ on both Sunday and Monday (6, 7, 8, 9, 10:15, 11:15). The Novena to the Sorrowful Mother will take place as usualy at 6:45, on Friday evening.

-----  
PRAYERS -- Deceased: brother of Rev. Henry Guess, CSC; father of Paul Hurley of Badin; Rev. Jeremiah Davern, of Syracuse. Ill: uncle of Richard Galle of Howard.