

University of Notre Dame
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Devotion To St. Jude

For those of you who turn desperately to St. Jude (and that is laudable), we have some pamphlets containing approved prayers, a novena, etc. You will find the pamphlet much more useful, and the entire approach to your devotion to the good Apostle much more edifying than some of the homespun "magic" formulae now touring both the campus and the country. These formulae have about them the nature of "chain" prayer. They promise great results on the fourth, or the ninth day of the novena. They predict dire things for you if you break the chain by failing to send the copies on to other pious souls.

The whole atmosphere of these private devotions is somewhat akin to a "good-luck" charm, rather than genuine prayer. They are on the level with a rabbit's foot, a horseshoe, a lucky penny, and similar objects. It is not too far removed from a cult strangely resembling voodoo. It is somewhat related to superstition. It is a long, long way from genuine prayer -- wherein we in no way constrain God, but merely seek God's Will in the matter that interests us. We know that our prayers are heard by God; and that He, in His Infinite Wisdom, knows what is good for our souls -- and we let the matter rest there. It isn't the same thing at all as a box of Cracker Jack wherein we have a right to expect a prize in every package.

But that's what some well-meaning, but ill-informed, Catholics make of these private chain-letter devotions to St. Jude and to other saints -- a box of Cracker Jack!

Don't be gullible. Play safe with a pamphlet of approved devotions. Pray to learn the Will of God regarding the favor you ask -- not to tie Him up in a contract whereby you dictate not only what He is to give you, but when He is to grant the request. If God looks after the birds of the air, and feeds them, surely He will listen to you -- you who are made to His own image and likeness -- and, in His own good time, give you what He knows is best for you.

Now that exams are over, it is just possible that devotion to this great saint may level off to an ordinary pitch -- which will still amount to a healthy devotion. The bona-fide clients will find the new pamphlets on St. Jude of help to them.

First Friday This Week

First Friday is a day of reparation at Notre Dame -- with the Blessed Sacrament exposed all day in Sacred Heart Church. Plan now to save a half-hour of the day for God -- in reparation for your past sins, and the sins of those whom you love.

Let's Get Organized

Now that we have withstood the reports on most of the exams -- and retaliated by a loud repetition of all the old "absent-minded professor" jokes -- it's time to get down to business with new classes and new professors. Those of you who didn't budget your time too well, pick up a schedule sheet at the pamphlet rack. It will help you to put your day in order. It will pay dividends in marks as the weeks roll by.

Prayers Requested

Deceased: friend of Jerry Pastula of Farley; friend of John Linehan of Dillon; Mrs. Fern Marsh (Academic Office); Rev. James Quinlan, CSC; uncle of Herb Riband of Howard; mother of Rev. Richard Grimm, CSC; brother-in-law of Rev. John J. Burke, CSC; mother of Charles Schilling; Alexis Coquillard, II; aunt of Joe Muelflur of Sorin. Ill: father of Howard Murdock, '36; father of Ollie Helland; father of John, '50, and William, '53; McKinstra; friend of Henry Neuhoff of Dillon. 6 Sp. Int's.