

Prayers Requested: Deceased
Grandmother of Tom Murphy
of Dillon. 1 Sp. Intention.

University of Notre Dame
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Another Kind Of Mortification

Many of us get all pepped up over some particular mortification that we intend to practice during Lent -- to the exclusion of a deeper dip into the daily virtues, and a Christian emphasis on what we are supposed to be doing already. Doubtless, it would be more pleasing to God were we to fulfill the obligations of our state in life before taking on additional penances. Very often the fulfillment of those obligations requires more sanctity than we shall ever pick up from little crosses of our own choosing. Let's make sure of existing obligations before taking on new ones!

A housewife who spends an hour in the parish church -- when she should be home cooking her husband's supper -- is not exactly on the threshold of holiness. She is on a par with the Notre Dame stalwart who prays a long time at the Grotto -- then walks in late for Sunday Mass. Even the Mother of God would have preferred a brief prayer!

Giving up things is wonderful, too. But given up at the expense of tempers, at the expense of love and charity, at the cost of normal strength or working capacity -- they might very well offset your objective. Piety that irritates those with whom you live is not exactly pleasing to God -- though it may flatter your ego. And ultimately a committee may call you with the request that you resume your harmless vices.

For most individuals, life must go on during Lent in its daily application at work and at play, and at the business of living. And the individual who tries to withdraw into a spiritual shell, while physically moving in his normal sphere, more frequently depresses or annoys, than inspires. And sad saints are in a hopeless minority, thank God!

Maybe Lent should not be so much like a little six-weeks hill that we go up on Ash Wednesday and come down on Easter Sunday. Maybe it would be much better if we regarded Lent as another step in a constant climb -- maybe not so steep, but yet sound progress upward. By Easter we may not have climbed very far, yet we find ourselves on a higher level for the ensuing weeks, with our spiritual fibre strengthened; and a deeper realization of the obligations of our state in life; and a little more regard for our neighbor, in that we begin to love him as we do ourselves!

In effect, the mortification that is not of my own choosing may have much more holiness and merit about it than my own ideas on the subject. It should rate a high priority in my scheme of Lenten heroics.

"To ask for crosses we have not received, and to reject those we have, is not playing the game... Fewer lofty thoughts, then, and more humility and real generosity."

Marriage Matters

All Seniors attending the Marriage Institute will find pertinent material at the Dillon hall pamphlet rack, these days. Take a look at some of the brochures that elaborate on the regular lectures, and explain the Church's attitude on some of the current problems pertaining to this great Sacrament. You'll find them helpful, and enlightening. And if you know of any particular pamphlet that should be there, tell us -- if it helped you, it might very well help many others.

The Evening Mass at 5:10, Monday through Friday is celebrated: in Sacred Heart Church on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; in Dillon chapel on Tuesday and Thursday.

Have You Signed Up For Daily Adoration ?

Tonight at 6:45 in Sacred Heart Church: Novena to the Sorrowful Mother.