

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
May 16, 1955

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The Rogation Days

If you awoke early this morning to the chanting of the Litany of the Saints floating across the lake, you probably caught your breath for a moment, thinking, perhaps, it was the Day of Judgment. It was only the "monks" up bright and early, marching along the path through the woods that leads to Calvary, praying for a bountiful harvest. Why? Because today, tomorrow, and Wednesday are Rogation Days.

The custom goes back to ancient times -- to St. Marcellus, Bishop of Vienna, and later ordered by the fifth Council of Orleans (511). These days were highly esteemed in England, even in the time of King Alfred, and continued down through Elizabeth's reign (1571). They were known in England as "Gang Days," or "Cross Week." In the Ages of Faith, people found time to petition God on these occasions for bountiful harvests; and that His Providence might watch over them, and their material needs.

You have heard of the circus pausing for a blessing before setting out on its spring tour; and of the fishing fleets and crews asking God's benediction on their labors. In Catholic countries there still flourishes this custom of the parish priest, accompanied by the people, moving with prayer and Faith through the neighboring fields, asking God's blessing on their labors and on the crops to come. In our day, only the hardy monks continue the holy custom in the locality. But it should not be above you to get down on your knees before God from Whom all blessings flow, and pray for our material welfare, especially for the breadwinners of our own families.

Have You Been Confirmed ?

If not -- see Father Joseph Barry, Junior Chaplain and Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish. He will make all arrangements for you to receive the Sacrament on next Monday evening at 7:30 at St. Joseph's Parish, in South Bend. See him immediately, as it may be necessary for you to write for your Baptismal Certificate.

Reminders ...

That we have Adoration every day during May -- Monday through Friday -- in the Lady Chapel... That we have Benediction there at 5 p.m. every evening -- a brief but wonderful devotion within the reach of all ... That a daily visit to the Grotto during the month of May is an old, Notre Dame custom which has paid rich dividends to generations of Her loyal sons... That we have the singing of hymns in Her honor each evening at 6:15... That on Wednesday of this week we start the Novena for Exams -- a petition, bolstered by our own intellectual efforts, to the Seat of Wisdom for the assistance that we might well be able to use on this occasion... That missals are still available at wholesale prices in the offices of the Class Chaplains. You could very well startle your pastor, and edify your neighbors, this summer, by using a missal at the parish Mass. It will be one more indication that you got something from Notre Dame besides a keen longing for home-cooking!

Do You Know This Man ...

Someone who as yet has not made his Easter Duty? You are your brother's keeper, you know. Our Lord made that very clear, and He promised great rewards to you for rounding up the strays -- He would forget all about your many sins! Get busy. Maybe a word from you will do the job. Trinity Sunday is not so far off. This tardy Catholic wouldn't let his insurance lapse. It's largely the same thing here, in a spiritual way. Come to Confession with him. Someday he'll be glad you spoke up before it was too late!

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PRAYERS -- Deceased: Brother Sabinus, CSC; James D. Bowen, '26. Ill: grandmother of Bud Schlehuber of Howard. 2 Special Intentions.