

University of Notre Dame

Go to Confession tonight
in all hall chapels and
avoid the morning rush.

Religious Bulletin
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Confessions in Dillon (6-8);
in Howard and Cavanaugh from
7 until 9 every evening.

You And Your Parents

The obligation to honor your parents is not one of mere poetic justice.

You are bound by the Fourth Commandment to love your parents; that is, to wish them well, and to show good will toward them exteriorly. Hence, it is a sin against nature and against the positive law of God to be indifferent towards your parents, to treat them harshly, to speak roughly to them, or to cause them sadness.

They have clothed you, fed you, educated you, provided you with spending money, maybe sacrificed their own legitimate pleasures to give you a higher education.

Have you ever dug deep into self-sacrifice to show your love for them in a practical way? It should be easy here at Notre Dame to pause for a moment and consider how important a part they have played in our life and in our welfare. In their absence, we are more willing to think of their goodness to us.

You are also bound by the Fourth Commandment to obey your parents, so long as you are under their care. Hence, don't get the idea that you can do as you please when you become twenty-one. Don't think that it is your own business to come home at night as late as you please, to run around in dangerous company, to frequent questionable shows, or other places of amusement. Your parents have the right and the obligation to command you in these matters -- and you have the corresponding obligation to obey.

You are also bound by the Fourth Commandment to have reverence for your parents -- to recognize inwardly their dignity, and to acknowledge that dignity outwardly in word and deed. This reverence is hardly a characteristic of our Twentieth Century. It is easy today to adopt the attitude that "the old man" and "the old lady" are old-fashioned, or narrow-minded, maybe uneducated, when, in reality, they possess the soundest good sense born of experience, and devotion.

Dishonor for parents carries an indictment even in this life. Don't forget how the entire Fourth Commandment goes -- "Honor thy father and mother, that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest live long on earth." You can't even expect blessings in this life if you neglect these obligations. Being "Big Braves" and big University men doesn't cancel out this devotion at all.

Why Bring That Up ?

Because tomorrow we start the Novena for Parents. You are asked to make this novena as a little gift to them for Christmas. It's customary for you to buy a Christmas gift for them; and you'll probably buy it with their money. But what will it mean in the labor of your own hands, or in sacrifice? How much love will it represent? Gifts, you know, take their value from the love of the giver; not from the price tag they bear.

And so you are asked to manifest a little love, and devotion, and reverence -- maybe make up for some past neglect or irreverence -- by getting up for the next nine mornings and offering your Mass and Communion for them, along with your Rosary, and other devotions. Sure, the mornings are cold; and getting up calls for sacrifice. But parents are worth that little sacrifice on your part. And you know they will prize that sacrifice on your part above all other gifts. And to be honest about it, the sacrifice of getting up for Mass and Communion is about the only real gift you can make your parents -- because it will be your own, out of love for them.

Christmas Novena Cards -- available at all pamphlet racks.