

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

January 11, 1957

St. Andrew's Missals (\$4)

still available. See

your Class Chaplains.

Tonight at 6:45, we
resume the Sorrowful
Mother Novena.

Sunday: Feast Of The Holy Family

You shouldn't be too much surprised to find the word "holy" linked with the word "family." Indeed, it adds up to "happy family," and provides us with the pattern we hope to make our own, some day in the future.

You've heard of the "un-holy" family, the one that begins in sin, continues in compromise, and ends in divorce -- leaving broken homes, twisted lives, and problem children. You hope to be spared this ordeal; and you will if your family is holy. And that's something worth praying for.

In observing the Holy Family, you'll notice that it was a Child-centered family. Note also that its members did not live in some finely textured dream world. They lived at Nazareth -- in an atmosphere so devoid of culture and refinement and virtue that, later, one of the future Apostles (Nathaniel) dismissed Our Lord with the terse comment: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

It is comforting to discover that the Holy Family was dependant on the labor of Joseph's hands to earn its daily bread. There was no income assured through inheritance, or magical investments. No, Nazareth was a very real place. For these three, it was a battle to survive. This they did -- in bread and in virtue.

Fruits Of Marriage

For us, God has elevated the marriage contract to the dignity of a sacrament, sanctifying the human family relationship, and thus making married love a source of mutual grace and spiritual growth. And, just as the exercise of the priesthood, the other social sacrament, ought to be a source of personal holiness for the priest, so the daily measuring up to the demands of married life ought to be a source of spiritual growth for the two joined by God in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Note the 3 virtues required for a holy family life -- love, respect, and obedience. These make for unity; and where there is unity, there can be no selfishness. The lives of the members of a happy family are so knit together that the quality of their separate lives depends upon the manner of their living for each other. Wherever we find a family practicing these virtues, we find a happy family.

Many material things may be wanting. Maybe there won't be the ease, and comfort, and luxury, and facilities, and access that we associate with graceful living. So what? The ultimate foundation of a family's happiness is not necessarily to be measured by a giant color T-V set. It is not to be measured by anything of this world. You've met people with bulging pocketbooks, and hungry hearts -- and pitied them. They stand sadly in want of a little love, and respect, and obedience.

This Sunday, the Church asks fathers and mothers and children to contemplate the Holy Family of Nazareth, and thus see our ideal in clear outline. Then it remains for us to pray for the grace to produce that radiant ideal in our own family living.

It is just possible, too, that you have a little more time here at Notre Dame to pray than do the other members of your family. It is just possible that they are depending upon you for this contribution to their welfare!

PRAYERS - Deceased: James W. Lawler; uncle of Frank Black (O_C); brother of Henry Fenbert of Morrissey; 2 friends of Bill Garvin of Fisher; father of John Birney (O_C); Gerald Hassmer, '24; Mrs. Grace Comiskey; John Quinlan, '04; Paul Fergus, '35.