

Blood Donors needed.  
See Prefect of Religion  
in 117 Dillon...

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 6, 1957

... If he is absent when  
you come, leave name and  
campus address.

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The Mass Matters Most

In all your efforts to assist the Poor Souls, don't overlook the Mass; for this is the prized tool at our disposal and within our convenience, to be of most help to them.

No matter how good a sermon is; no matter how fine the social program; no matter how personable the priests might be; no matter how exquisite the church and altar furnishings; no matter how competent the choir -- these are all secondary and accidental elements. The primary purpose, which overshadows all others, is to worship God with the perfect gift -- the Holy Sacrifice of His own Body and Blood.

It's laudable to pray the Rosary daily, to make the Stations of the Cross, to recite Novena Prayers, to fast, to visit shrines -- all these devotions are very good. But in all these activities, I am the principal actor. I alone do these things with my own efforts; and the rewards must necessarily be finite, and limited.

But in the Mass I have a Sacrifice of Infinite Value. The priest offers this sacrifice in the person of Christ for the people; and those present offer it at the same time with Him. And since Christ is also the Victim, the sacrifice is of infinite value.

Only in the Mass can you praise and thank God infinitely, because the Mass is the act by which one prays with Christ. It is only in the Mass that you can bring God's all-powerful and all-merciful Hand to assist the Poor Souls in an infinite manner. Anything else we do is our own effort, and only our own. But the power of the Mass lies in the fact that it is the prayer of Christ. It enables us to pray with Christ -- He takes our prayer and blends it with His, thus allowing us to pray with His tremendous and infinite efficacy.

The Devil is a wily one. So much does he hate the Mass that when enemies of the Church set about destroying the Faith, their first edict invariably forbids the celebration of Mass. And they strike at the heart of the Church when they do so, knowing that once they rid the land of the Holy Sacrifice, the rest will be easy. They may be diabolical; but they are accurate.

Here at Notre Dame you have many daily Masses in every hall chapel, geared to your convenience. What is best for you, and for the Poor Souls, is within easy reach -- available in the very house in which you live.

This morning we started a Novena of Masses for the Poor Souls. If you care anything at all about them -- or your own soul -- you'll be at Mass in your hall chapel for the next nine days. They need nothing so much as the Mass. And you need nothing so much as the Mass to get where they are. It's true: in no other way can you be so good to them, and to yourself, than by daily Mass -- plus Communion and the Rosary. This is the substance of our Novena for the Poor Souls.

Sometimes, the value of worthwhile things comes home to us only after we have been separated from them. At no time in all your life will it again be so easy to get to daily Mass, as it is here at Notre Dame. Make the most of it now!

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PRAYERS - Deceased: father of Edward B. Dunigan, '42; Joseph Feldott, '18; grandmother of George and Ray Miller (O-C); grandfather of John Shepherd (O-C); cousin of Ray Beilleri of Sorin; friend of Mike Phenner of Pangborn; mother of Charles Schubert, '52; father of Ed O'Malley, '32; father of Don Freund, '55. Ill: friend of Bob Atmore of Morrissey; father of Mike Brady of Dillon. 2 special intentions.