

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Monday, December 1, 1958

Notre Dame, Indiana

TEN PINTS OF blood are urgently needed by a grad student who underwent a serious operation this morning. If you are over 21, and feel able to aid in this time of need, will you stop at 116 Dillon and make the necessary arrangements

for contributing at the Central Blood Bank downtown? If you are under 21, but feel you would like to help out in the present (or some future) emergency, please send home the above permission form, have your parents sign it, and bring it along with you when you make arrangements for donating.

● THE ADVENT WREATH in Sacred Heart Church symbolizes the long ages during which mankind was "sitting in darkness" awaiting the coming of Christ. Each day, as the burning candle symbolizes the passing of time, we pray for the grace of a good and holy preparation for Christmas.

● The response to the proposed retreat at the Fatima Retreat House has, up to now, been too slight to warrant our going ahead with it. Unless about twenty more sign up in the next day or two, we will cancel the retreat set for December 7-10, and schedule one again in February.

● THE NOVENA FOR YOUR PARENTS begins this week--on Thursday, to be exact. This year, you may not have many gift dollars to worry about stretching, so why not go all out and give your parents the kind of gift that indicates more to them than any dollars and cents gift. Give them the kind of gift that tells them that you can be counted on to be mindful of them, not just on one day of the year, but on nine consecutive days. The

RELEASE FOR MINORS

My son _____
HAS MY PERMISSION TO VOLUNTARILY MAKE A DONATION of blood to the Central Blood Bank, Inc., and for that purpose may submit to the tests, examinations and procedures, customary in connection with donations of blood.

(Parent) _____

(Son) _____

novena will consist of Mass, Communion, and Rosary for nine days. A card telling of your having made the Novena will be distributed on Wednesday.

● Avoid the Christmas crush by making your confession here.

A good time to make your confession would be this week. First Friday comes along this week. And a week from today is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation.

● YOUR PRAYERS have been requested for the following: Ill: Uncle of Charles O'Brien, '58; grandfather of Roger Ryan, Off-campus. Deceased: Father of Fred Hartmann, Jr., '52; friend of Dick Benkendorf of Pangborn; friend of Dave Cormier of Zahm; uncle and friend of Roger Ryan, Off-campus; grandfather of John Burdick, Off-campus; grandfather of George Frechette of Walsh; Robert J. Carter, Ph.D., '55; James I. Smith, Jr., '24; mother of William E. Flannery, '36; mother of Prof. Thomas Madden, formerly of the English Dept.; mother of James, Charles, Patrick, and Thomas Scheerin; aunt of Jack Whitaker of Lyons.

● After Mass during Advent, on those days when the priest wears violet vestments, you will notice that the priest doesn't face the congregation and say, "Ite, missa est". Instead, he turns toward the altar and urges, "Benedicamus Domino"--"Let us bless the Lord". He is urging you to follow the custom of the early Christians who, during times of penance stayed kneeling in prayer even after services had ended. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving provide ample opportunity to observe Advent.



MANY OF YOU stayed close by the dome during the Thanksgiving holidays and passively watched the airlines curtail service, the trains run late, and the mercury fall. Or perhaps, having gone, you nevertheless returned yesterday to find ice in the holy water fonts in Sacred Heart Church. Some of you, however, waited until last night to lift your last toast to the holidays or to make the tearful farewell that would separate you and your "one and only" for the nineteen days that remain before the Christmas holidays.

LAST NIGHT, nineteen days may have seemed a long time. It is. It's time enough to do something by way of remedying that pink slip that may have arrived the day after Thanksgiving. It's time enough in which to make strides on that senior essay or term paper. It's time enough to pull a switch and get out of the rut you may have been in since last July. It's even time enough to make up your mind about what you are going to do with the years God has given you here on earth. And above all, it is time to do some thinking about your habit of accepting or refusing reality.

REALITY SURROUNDS US without and within. The extravert will attempt to dissolve all the disturbing features of reality by "short circuiting" his feelings by words or gestures, and effectively blocking any inner response to reality's demands upon him. Mounier says of him: "his spiritual life tends to be nullified by the suppression of that inwardness in which personality gathers itself together and ripens." Such a one must really work at developing the kind of spirituality that is necessary if he is to sustain a well-balanced active

presence in the external world. The introvert has problems, too. Of him, Mounier says, his condition can cause him to fall into "an egoistic enjoyment of the self, into complicated delights and sterile reverie; imaginary romances tarnish the joyful appreciation of everyday life, self-defeating subtleties lower the sense of reality and concern for others." Such a one, if he fails to engage reality, will perpetually retreat from action. And the spiritual life, make no mistake about it, is an active life. Not an inactive one.

AT SOME TIME OR OTHER you've probably characterized yourself as either an extravert or introvert. At some time or other during the time that remains before the Christmas holidays, ask yourself again how your personality has affected your coming to grips with reality, how it has affected your spiritual life. This, remember, is a time, not of celebration, but of preparation--for the great celebration of Christ's birth.

Hark! an awe-full voice is sounding:
"Christ is nigh!" it seems to say;
"Cast away the dreams of darkness
O ye children of today. . . ."

So when next He comes with glory,
Wrapping all the earth in fear,
May He then as our Defender
On the clouds of Heaven appear.
(Lauds for Advent)

ADVENT IS A TIME given us to prepare for that last coming of Christ. Prepare, however, not in a spirit of fear but of glad welcome.

Gene Boorman, c.s.c.
Prefect of Religion