

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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PRAYER

NOVENA FOR PARENTS

O ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, WHO, IN THE SECRET COUNSELS OF THINE INEFFABLE PROVIDENCE, HAST BEEN PLEASED TO CALL US INTO LIFE BY MEANS OF OUR PARENTS, WHO THUS PARTAKE OF THY DIVINE POWER IN OUR REGARD, MERCIFULLY HEAR THE PRAYER OF FILIAL AFFECTION WHICH WE OFFER TO THEE ON BEHALF OF THOSE TO WHOM THOU HAST GIVEN A SHARE OF THY FATHERLY MERCY, IN ORDER THAT THEY MIGHT LAVISH UPON US IN OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE THE CONSOLING GIFT OF THY HOLY AND GENEROUS LOVE.

O LORD, FILL OUR PARENTS WITH THY CHOICEST BLESSINGS; ENRICH THEIR SOULS WITH THY HOLY GRACE; GRANT THAT THEY MAY FAITHFULLY AND CONSTANTLY GUARD THAT LIKENESS TO THY MARRIAGE WITH THE CHURCH. FILL THEM WITH THE SPIRIT OF HOLY FEAR, WHICH IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM, AND CONTINUALLY MOVE THEM TO IMPART THE SAME TO THEIR CHILDREN; MAY THEY EVER WALK IN THE WAY OF THY COMMANDMENTS, AND MAY THEIR CHILDREN BE THEIR JOY IN THIS EARTHLY EXILE AND THEIR CROWN OF GLORY IN THEIR HOME IN HEAVEN. AMEN.

IN YOUR CHARITY, REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING: Deceased: Father of Thalas Kilmer of St. Edward's; grandmother of Don Hendon of Farley; Gerald Harrington, '29; father of John Durburg of Dillon; grandfather of Frank Yurasek of Zahm; grandmother of Bob Klein of Walsh and Bill Klein of St. Edward's; mother of Daniel J. Sullivan, '40. Ill: Sister of Jack Leadbetter of Farley; grandfather of Ken Bourgon of Dillon. 2 Special Intentions.



IN RECENT YEARS, it seems that everyone starts celebrating Christmas about as soon as the Thanksgiving dinner dishes are cleared away. As a result, by the time Christmas actually comes, many are sick and tired of it. In other parts of the world, where they've been celebrating a lot longer than we have, it seems that Advent is still observed.

I'm not suggesting that you go so far as to follow the Bavarian custom of leaving a note on your windowsill listing your Christmas wants on this eve of the feast of St. Nicholas. Neither would I insist that Gene Bertoncini and his Lettermen muster before the Grotto at four A.M. on these Advent mornings to serenade the madonna, as do his Roman cousins. And I am not suggesting that the Polish boy in Morrissey Hall (whose name you've been trying to pronounce all day today) should follow the tradition of his forefathers and cover the floor of his room with straw these days.

WHAT I AM suggesting is that we put the skids under some of the pre-Christmas celebrating that has become increasingly more common in recent years. Advent, remember, is a penitential season. And the Church's traditional Christmas season, the time for celebrating, is the period of twelve days between the Feast of the Nativity and the Feast of the Epiphany. Now, I have nothing against merchants and trades-people, but I'll disagree with them when they try to substitute their pattern for celebrating Christmas for the pattern established by the Church's liturgy. It seems that Catholics along with many others have come to equate the commercial and the spiritual Christmas. Erecting and lighting trees, throwing parties, carolling should be delayed until the penitential season of Advent has ended.

I'LL GRANT YOU, there is a mingling of penitence and joy in this season, but if we use these days for celebration, then how can we hope to fulfill the Church's teaching that during this time we should cry out to Him that He might come. Under the present arrangement, there is a great danger, I fear, that we will be content with what He is for us now. And we will not understand why He came and what He came to bring us.

WE MUST ASK HIM to come, not only for ourselves, but for the world. The blessings of the Gospel have hardly begun to be felt in the world. Most of the consequences of the message of the Child of Bethlehem remain to be drawn in the dealings of men in society and nation with nation. The Saviour, it's true, has come. But I'm sure there are many for whom it is as if He had not come. Hence, we must still call Him. Not through empty gestures, though.

YOU MUST want His influence to penetrate everywhere. Often, you say the words, "May His Kingdom come".

BUT ARE YOU willing to work for it? Are you willing to overcome your selfishness? Willing to make the sacrifices called for in this season of penance? Are you honestly willing to make your own the Church's prayer during these days?

COME, divine Messiah,
Save our unhappy days;
COME, thou source of life,
COME, O Lord, COME!

IF YOU ARE, then you will strive in your own way to make Advent a time of preparation for Christ's coming. A time of penitence.

Gene Boorman, c.c.
Prefect of Religion