

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

Vol. XXXIX, No. 45

Monday, February 8, 1960

Notre Dame, Ind.

News Section

● OUR ACCOUNT at the Blood Bank is in need of a few deposits. Any donors in the house? Most of the donations are used for student or faculty needs. However, one little boy in South Bend has been kept alive on students' blood donations. During the past five years, he has had 255 transfusions.

● THE BENGAL BOUTS are scheduled this year for March 28, 30, and April 1. The students who will take part in the Bouts have already begun training. Plan to attend, and keep in mind that proceeds go to the missionaries working for souls in Bengal, East Pakistan.

● HERE'S A REMINDER that Ash Wednesday is not far off. Start planning your penances now.

Feb. 8th.....	St. John of Matha, C.
Feb. 9th.....	St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bp. C. D.
Feb. 10th.....	St. Scholastica, V.
Feb. 11th.....	Our Lady of Lourdes
Feb. 12th.....	Seven Servite Founders
Feb. 13th.....	St. Benignus, M.
Feb. 14th..Septuagesima.....	St. Valentine, M.
Feb. 15th.....	Ss. Faustinus & Jovita, Mm., S.
Feb. 16th.....	St. Onesimus, Bp. M.
Feb. 17th.....	St. Fintan, Abbot
Feb. 18th.....	St. Simeon, Bp. M.
Feb. 19th.....	Palestine Martyrs
Feb. 20th.....	St. Eleutherius, Bp. M.
Feb. 21st..Sexagesima.....	Sicilian Martyrs
Feb. 22nd.....	St. Peter's Chair at Antioch
Feb. 23rd.....	St. Peter Damian, Bp. C. D.
Feb. 24th.....	St. Ethelbert, C.
Feb. 25th.....	St. Matthias, Apostle
Feb. 26th.....	St. Tarasius, Patriarch, C.
Feb. 27th.....	St. Alexander, Bp. C.
Feb. 28th..Quinquagesima....	St. Gabriel of the Sorrows
Feb. 29th.....	St. Romanus, Abbot
Mar. 1st.....	St. Albinus, Bp. C.
Mar. 2nd.....	Ash Wednesday

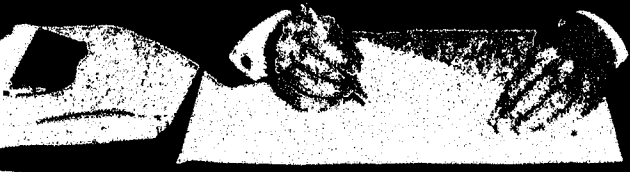
● SENIORS will be pleased to know that in his home parish nine high Masses and five low Masses will be offered for Tony Champagne. There were also numerous Masses offered here on campus.

● AFTER THIRTY YEARS, Al Smith's creed is again being discussed. Here it is:

"I summarize my creed as an American Catholic. I believe in the worship of God according to the faith and practice of the Roman Catholic Church. I recognize no power in the institutions of my Church to interfere with the operations of the Constitution of the United States or the enforcement of the law of the land. I believe in absolute freedom of conscience for all men and equality of all churches, all sects, and in all beliefs before the law as a matter of right and not as a matter of favor. I believe in the absolute separation of church and state and in the strict enforcement of the provisions of the Constitution that 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.' I believe that no tribunal of any church has any power to make any decree of any force in the law of the land, other than to establish the status of its own communicants within its own church. I believe in the support of the public school as one of the cornerstones of American liberty. I believe in the right of every parent to choose whether his child shall be educated in the public school or in a religious school supported by those of his own faith. . . . And I believe in the common brotherhood of man under the common fatherhood of God.

"In this spirit I join with fellow Americans of all creeds in a fervent prayer that never again in this land will any public servant be challenged because of the faith in which he has tried to walk humbly with his God. Very truly yours, Alfred E. Smith."

● PRAYERS. Deceased: Uncle of Bob Coney of Dillon; uncle of Ronald Lipps of Fisher; friend of Bill Werner of Dillon; aunt of Mark McShane of Dillon; aunt of Ed White, Off-Campus; father of Rev. Harold Riley, C.S.C.; grandmother of Mrs. Robert Caponigri; uncle of Larry Brekka of Pangborn; Mrs. E. L. Ludvigsen.



With the approach of St. Valentine's Day, it's fitting we reviewed the origin of the practice of sending valentines. Robert Willson does it here. We might not agree with his conclusions as to why the day continues to be observed so widely, but it is a good time to ask yourself whether you are as affectionate and grateful as you ought to be towards the Mother or Grandmother who showed her affection for you at Christmas and for many years past.

The sentiment, the mystery, indeed even the romance is fast disappearing from valentine greetings. The words "I love you" and "Be my Valentine" are conspicuous by their absence from today's *friendly* valentines. American lovers, it seems, are growing more bashful year by year, and the cards most in demand are short-suited in hearts. The vast majority of this year's 450,000,000 valentines are like birthday cards, in that you can buy them for brother and sister, grandmother and grandfather, pals and old acquaintances who have all but dropped out of sight.

St. Valentine's Day has been celebrated for more than 1500 years. Although most authorities have long agreed that the association of St. Valentine's Day with the traditional lovers' festival is accidental, the story is often told that Pope Galasius in the fifth century substituted a February 14th feast in honor of a martyred Bishop by the name of Valentine for the pagan Lupercalia, a festival dedicated to Juno and Pan. To choose their partners for the Lupercalia celebration, young Romans put the names of the fairest maidens in a box and drew them out by chance. Eventually the plain name cards were decorated with appropriate symbols, and

sometimes a few lines of laudatory verse were added to extoll the virtues of the nominated maidens.

The precursors of our present valentines appeared in the 14th century when young gallants and their loves hid carefully rhymed sentiments in hollow trees and other trysting places. Chaucer and Shakespeare mention St. Valentine's Day, and an old legend has it that Prince Charles of Orleans, captured by the English at the battle of Agincourt in 1415, whiled away the lonely hours in the Tower of London writing valentines.

The custom of sending anonymous love tokens in verse was well established by the 16th century when Edmund Spenser gave us the immortal line, "Roses are red, violets are blew." Under the Bourbon kings in France, valentines became literal works of art; decorations in silver and gold were overlaid with fine lace on "cards" that were sometimes ten feet tall.

Printed valentines originated in the 19th century and soon achieved a popularity now enjoyed only by our Christmas cards. In 1836 the Postmaster General had to issue an appeal that they be mailed early lest the post offices be swamped. The

most popular ones bore the sentiments, "Affection's offering" and "Absent but true" on gaudy cards printed in red and gold. But Victorian dandies would spend as much as \$50 each for valentines of gold leaf and lace on which their own verses were artfully inscribed.

As the sending of valentines became widespread, it was no wonder that some few persons became carried away with the traditions of the day. A young man named Fullmer, completely in tune with the spirit of St. Valentine's Day and absolutely enamored by the beauty of a young female customer in the shop in which he was employed as a clerk, made the apparent mistake of kissing the beautiful stranger, was fined \$20 for his pains, and, of course, was dismissed by his employer. The comely young lady eventually married well, became a widow, and died. In her will she left \$100,000 to Fullmer, confessing that the stolen St. Valentine's Day kiss had been the most treasured possession of her entire life.

The popularity of St. Valentine's Day probably continues because it is our only strictly personal holiday. No matter what your sentiments, no matter to whom they are addressed, you can find a card, priced from a penny to \$100, to convey your valentine message.

