

# RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

Vol. XL, No. 41

Wednesday, January 18, 1961

Notre Dame, Ind.

## THIS WEEK

AND NEXT, the Mass Schedule in Sacred Heart will be the same as usual. 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 Masses in the morning, and at 5:10 in the evening. The Sunday Mass schedule will also be the same as usual.

January 18-25

i.e., beginning today, there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacred Heart Church at 4:45 as part of the Chair of Unity Octave devotions. And during the Masses scheduled for Sacred Heart Church a remembrance will be made of those for whom the gift of Faith has been requested. It should be noted that many of those for whom prayers were requested were young ladies--and marriageable, no doubt. For some students, therefore, this week may be important for more than academic reasons.

## TONIGHT

the Sophomore Class will assemble at the Grotto at 6:45 P.M. and pray for Dr. Tom Dooley. There will be more than a few, too, who will use the occasion to say a final prayer for success in the examinations. And one, too, for snow!

## Departure

Ceremony for Jim MacDonald who is leaving to join the Volunteer Teachers Mission Service will be held at 1:00 P.M., Sunday, January 22nd in Fisher Hall Chapel. Jim is the first Notre Dame student to join this lay missionary group. Purpose of this organization, founded here at Notre Dame in 1958 by Frs. Joseph Haley and Fred Underwood, is to secure and place qualified Catholic teachers in mission areas. Its scope is international as well as national. Volunteers are helping in Africa, Latin America, Alaska, Virginia, South Dakota, and Texas. Volunteers must be college graduates, practicing Catholics, between 21 and 35, and able to live and get along with others. Volunteers serve for at least nine months in the United States or for three years in the foreign missions. How can it be that Communists give their lives and possessions in behalf of their cause, and American Catholic men are so reluctant to give up even one year to teach the Faith to those in Mission areas? Volunteer Teachers Mission Service, P.O. Box 584, Killeen, Texas will answer any questions you may have about the work.

## In Your Prayers

please remember the following who are deceased: Father of Rev. Frank Sampson, '37; Mrs. Walter Bird; mother-in-law of Prof. Charles Brambel of the Chemistry Dept.; uncle of Terry Hutton of Alumni; friend of Tom Prisby of Morrissey; brother of Paul Ubelhor, '56. And the following who are ill: Rev. Charles Miltner, C.S.C.; Mrs. Clarence Brown; aunt of John McGrath of B-P; uncle of Steve Good of Keenan; uncle of John Irwin of Walsh; mother of Thomas Riley of Morrissey. And four special intentions. And one -- for snow!

WHAT'S IN A TITLE? Especially, the title to be assumed on Friday by President-elect John F. Kennedy. It's a title that has been held by thirty-three others before him. And, with but one exception, each President has made reference in his Inaugural address to the need for God to assist him in his carrying out of the task. John Roche has the following to say about the task and some of the men who occupied the Presidency:

Under whatever title, the references to God in the Presidential addresses fall into four major categories: prayer for a Divine blessing upon the Nation; prayer for God's help to the President personally; expression of gratitude for God's blessings upon the Country, in the past; and recognition that the government is to be guided by a moral standard.

Nearly all the inaugural messages manifest the first of these themes, echoing George Washington's invocation that "His benediction may consecrate the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States."

As to prayers for personal guidance, these are to be found in a majority of the speeches. "I shall need," Jefferson acknowledged, "the favor of that Being in Whose hands we are. . . ." James K. Polk referred directly to the vast responsibilities he was assuming and went on to "ferently invoke the aid of the Almighty Ruler of the Universe." Woodrow Wilson prayed that God would give him the wisdom and prudence to do his duty in a manner conformable to the true spirit of a great people.

The addresses of our early Presidents are particularly notable for their expression of gratitude for God's help in the formation and growth of this Nation. Again, Washington set this theme in his first inaugural message when he wrote:

"No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the



affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency."

Many of the expressions of gratitude for God's help include the assertion that the United States has been specially favored by the Almighty above other nations.

William Henry Harrison, whose inaugural address is the longest delivered by a President, referred to the role of Providence in providing for the American people "institutions far exceeding in excellence those of any other people." Lincoln invoked "Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land."

More recently, the theme was notably expressed by Benjamin Harrison, Theodore Roosevelt and Warren Harding. "God has

placed upon our head a diadem," wrote the first, "and has laid at our feet power and wealth beyond definition or calculation." Roosevelt, while specifically eschewing any boastfulness "in our strength," expressed gratitude to "the Giver of Good who has blessed us with the conditions which have enabled us to achieve so large a measure of well-being and of happiness." President Harding referred directly to the "God-given destiny of our Republic."

The hope expressed by President Eisenhower in his second inaugural address for a world where moral law prevails, reflects the last major religious motif present in these messages.

Once more it was our first President who set this theme when he cautioned the Americans of 1789 that "the smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal values of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained."

Perhaps the most eloquent statement of the pursuit of a moral standard was that contained in the address of Calvin Coolidge:

"Peace will come only when there is realization that only under a reign of law, based on righteousness and supported by the religious conviction of the brotherhood of man, can there be any hope of a complete and satisfying life. Parchment will fail, the sword will fail; it is only the spiritual nature of man that can be triumphant. . . . [America] cherishes no purpose save to merit the favor of Almighty God."