

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

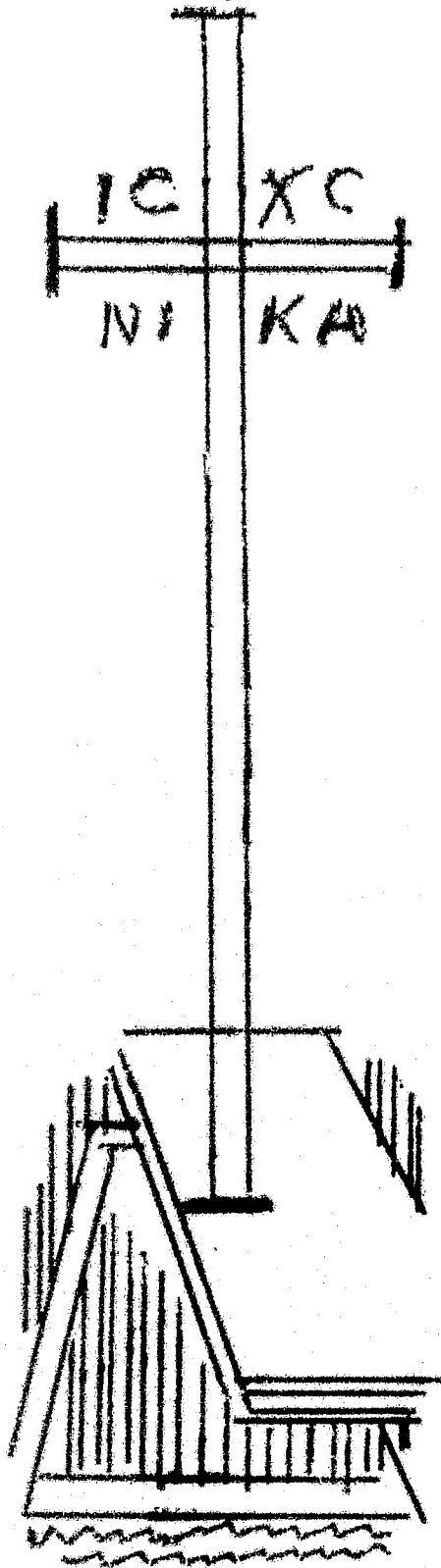
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Monday, April 10, 1961

Notre Dame, Ind.

The Week in Liturgy

By REV. ROBERT W. HOVDA



Monday, April 10

Weekday, with Mass as on Sunday. Faith is the lesson of both Epistle and Gospel. In the Catholic view, faith and the sacramental system are so intimately linked, that neither is independent of the other, neither can stand in isolation. Our faith is in the God who has come in our flesh, who renews us and makes us acceptable to Him by means of homely signs. And the sacramental signs are signs of faith, are both expression of and nourishment for faith.

Tuesday, April 11

St. Leo, Pope, Confessor, Doctor. To the faithful, what appears to so many as the scandal of papal and hierarchical authority, is part of the manifestation of God's love and care for his people. What appears to others as a human claim and pretension is seen by the Catholic as an act of God alone, assuring him that human sin and ignorance will not destroy the Church. The Epistle announces the pattern for the exercise of this authority. Authoritarianism and commercialism are alike condemned. Obedience is an act of love and of freedom.

Wednesday, April 12

Weekday, with Mass as on Sunday. The Gospel teaches of faith not merely in the abstract but in terms of an individual, Thomas. Faith is eminently personal. So all Christians worship and sacramental life is personal, must involve the person. The objective performance of a certain rite or ritual action is only part of the picture. The other part is one too often forgotten. This is one of the great concerns of the Church in our time: personal participation in the sacrament and in all public worship, personal involvement and engagement which only can make them true community actions, participation with body and voice as well as with mind and heart.

Thursday, April 13

St. Hermenegild, Martyr. Even though "God so loved the world" and Christians not only may but must love the world, the martyr as image of the Crucified is a perpetual witness in the Church to the fact that this does not exclude painful renunciations. Jesus says it with frightening candor in the Gospel. The existence of man is naturally friendly to paradox, including the paradox of simultaneous love and hate: hatred of the thing or person loved because in our fragmentary existence it can set itself up as a rival for our worship.

Friday, April 14

St. Justin, Martyr. It is in its unwillingness to accept paradox, to accept the limitations of human existence, that the wisdom of the unbeliever fails. As far as it goes, it is correct and good and desirable. But today's lessons insist that the Christian must go further. He must include God, and a God who can conceivably upset human philosophies and human systems. Our public worship, if it reminds us only of this, is already a great good. The martyr is inexplicable in terms of merely human wisdom. But with Christian faith, he becomes not only understandable—he is an ideal.

Sunday, April 15

St. Mary on Saturday. The Masses celebrated in honor of Our Lady provide a recurring accent on the humanism of the Gospel, of God's dealings with mankind. This can be misunderstood, as it is by those who accuse Christians of making God small like man, of "returning the compliment." The truth is quite different. Our worship of Almighty God is made possible precisely because He speaks to us in our language and comes to us in our flesh, yet in the process loses none of His perfection and suffers no diminishment of His being. His love, not our presumption, is the ground of our hope.

JUNIORS


The Junior Class has a retreat scheduled for this coming week-end. It will begin Friday evening at 7:00 o'clock in St Joseph Hall. Reservations may be made at 223 Dillon or 116 Dillon.

CLEAN-UP

During the vacation, the maintenance people gave the residence halls a pretty thorough cleaning. One thing they didn't touch, though, is the tack-board that can be found in most rooms. Yet, let's face it, some of these could stand a thorough going over. It's a fact that in some rooms the maids have found a student's choice of pictures downright offensive.

IN YOUR CHARITY

Remember the following in your prayers. Deceased: Matthew J. O'Brien, '42; Sr. Rita Bernardine; grandfather of Tom Clusserath of Fisher; Mrs. Mary Degan; Morris H. Jones; Peter DeLuca; friend of Bro. DeSales, C.S.C.; wife of Prof. Croteau of the Economics Dept.; Gerald M. Barrett, '22; father of Charles Cuva, Off-Campus; uncle of Al Perini, Off-Campus; Daniel Ryan. Ill: Father of Jim Coogan of B-P; nephew of Joe Pichler of Walsh; Eliot Lese; sister of Mrs. Owen of the History Dept. office. Two special intentions.



Semester examinations begin May 26th --in 46 days, to be exact. Meanwhile, a thousand and one things are going to be competing for your attention. Among others, there'll be baseball, the situation in Laos, a prom or two, the launching of the first manned space capsule, golf, working on your tan, or working up a new song about the Lauderdale jail, Bermuda, or Acapulco. Better have a pretty good idea of what work you've got to get done in these 46 days. There are always a few who come up short at the end of each semester. Especially in the spring semester. This supports the remark of one editor last week who wrote: "There is one sure sign of spring in our time, unfailing and trustworthy as the moon: students neglecting their studies."

Whoever made it possible for you to have a good time these past ten days is just as anxious now that you recall your academic commitment and get down to work. Of course, you shouldn't expect that you'll tackle your work with any enthusiasm if you're not in the state of grace. This time of year brings more than the usual distractions and temptations. And St Augustine, great sinner and great saint, put it very well when he said, "There is a great difference between the suppression of desire by the soul in despair and its expulsion from the soul that is healthy."

If it's been two or three weeks since your last confession, avail yourself of one of the many opportunities you have here during the next several days.

Even most of those who followed the sun took time out to attend services on Holy Saturday. Part of the service, you'll recall, consisted of a renewal of the promises made for or by you at Baptism. The work of Lent was, for the most part, aimed at preparing you for this renewal. If you came away from Lent and the Holy Saturday services determined to exercise better your role of Christian in the world, figure that that means here and now being the best student you're capable of being. There are many today who suggest by their actions that they are ready to abandon the world's sinking ship. The Christian, strengthened by the renewal of his baptismal promises, is the pilot ordered to bring her into port. The Christian is the only one who can do it. There is no promise that the Christian will always be listened to. The fact is the reverse may more often be true. This is the time, however, when you must strengthen yourself "in the words of the Master and the action of His Spirit." Only in this way can you be sure of not abandoning your role. Only in this way can you expect to have the clearness and the courage the task demands.

Gene Boorman, csc
Student Chaplain