

# RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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## A WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



The Chair of Unity Octave--the eight days of prayer between January 18 and January 25--is one Catholic answer to the problem of how all can contribute to the solution of the problem of disunity among Christians. Pray during these days that the Church's unity of belief and government may embrace all men, and that all may come to know the Truth. The only way there will ever be Christian unity is in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church founded by Jesus Christ Himself.

Every afternoon during the eight days of the Octave, there will be devotions and prayers for Christian Unity at 4:45 in Sacred Heart Church.

And, following the lead of others, special Masses will be offered on the first two days of the Octave--the first for the unity of Christians and the second for the pardon of sins. In the second Mass we will be praying for the forgiveness and undoing of the sins which Catholics have committed against Christian unity: such as sins of scandal, of faith abandoned, weakly lived, or blamefully misrepresented, and of uncharitableness, impatience, and lack of concern for those outside the material embrace of the Catholic Church.

The Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend has pointed out that "It is a tired old truism to say that we do not pray enough, but it must be said over and over in the hope that we may eventually do something about it. Again the Church calls us to the annual crusade of prayer known as the Chair of Unity Octave from January 18th to 25th." And Bishop Pursley continues:

In a world tragically divided on many levels there is a special urgency about praying for religious unity, the most basic of all. Our Holy Father's concern for this need has been expressed again and again in his kindly and confident way. The coming Ecumenical Council has given world-wide emphasis to this need. There are currently signs of an approach at least to better understanding between representatives of differing religious beliefs. As we are often reminded in the Catholic press, a climate of friendship has been created and the bitter and bigoted exchanges which used to

characterize so much religious controversy have largely disappeared and have been happily replaced by a spirit of charity.

Optimism on this score must be tempered by realistic caution but there are no such limits to hope and the power of prayer. The Unity Octave has a place in your religious life. To ignore it or accept it with indifference would be equivalent to telling Our Lord that we have no interest in the deepest desire of His Heart--that all men be one in Him.



With the first anniversary of Dr. Tom Dooley's death approaching, James Monahan's book, Before I Sleep, is available at book-sellers, and in condensed form in the January Reader's Digest. The account of Dr. Tom's death contains a lesson for us all:

Teresa went to the telephone and called Father Muller, who came immediately. "We went into the room together," Teresa says, "and I knelt beside the bed while he said the prayers and anointed Tom. Since hearing is the last sense to go, at the end of the Last Sacrament the priest bends over and whispers, 'Son, go now and meet thy God.' Those words will remain with me for the rest of my life."

After Father Muller left, Teresa and Tony remained in the room. Tom was breathing easily, and there was obvious peace and tranquility on his face. Teresa stood at the head of his bed, watching over him for a while. Then, suddenly, she realized that Tom was not breathing.

"Tony," she whispered, "did Tom just die?" Tony felt Tom's pulse, and nodded.

Says Teresa, "My immediate reaction was: God is good. There was just a quiet, peaceful slipping away, and he had gone with the rites of his church. Why had I been there? I had never intended to be. He had come so far, and in so much pain, to be with those who loved him. And to think that he might have died alone. . . ."

Thus, Tom Dooley died at 9:45 p.m., on Wednesday, January 18, 1961. The autopsy revealed at last the extent of his disease and the depth of his suffering. The malignant melanoma had spread to his brain, lungs, liver, spleen, heart—virtually no organ was spared. The marrow in his bones was supplanted almost completely by tumor.

ON SUNDAY evening, January 22, Tom Dooley's body lay in state, with a Navy honor guard, in the cathedral of his home city, St. Louis. Thousands of people filed past the bier.

Early the following morning, the Dooley family, Bob Copenhaver and a few friends went to the cathedral while Khamphan Panya, Lao minister of communications, representing the King of Laos, bestowed upon Tom Dooley the rank of Grand Officer of the Order of the Million Elephants and the White Parasol. The decoration, highest ever bestowed by Laos upon a foreigner, was placed on a white satin cushion beside the bier.

By 11 o'clock, more than 2000 people filled the cathedral when the Rt. Rev. Leo C. Byrne, Bishop of St. Louis, celebrated a Pontifical Mass. Father George Gottwald, in his

sermon, quoted the words from Robert Frost's poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," which Tom had loved and lived by:

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

"The promises, Dr. Dooley, are fulfilled," said Father Gottwald.

When the Mass had ended, six young medical students, three from Asia, carried the coffin down the cathedral steps and into the clear, cold January sunshine. At Calvary Cemetery, after a brief service, the bugler sounded taps, and they lowered Tom Dooley's coffin into the canopied grave.

#### IN YOUR CHARITY

Please pray for the following. Deceased: Father of Rev. Arthur Harvey, C.S.C.; Sir Richard Livingstone; brother of Jack McAllister of the Athletic Dept.; 11 miners killed in Herrin, Ill., mine disaster; earthquake victims in Yugoslavia; 183 victims of the cold-wave in this country; 4000 victims of the Peruvian avalanche. Ill: Greg Schwartz of Stanford; Frank Martello of Stanford; Thomas Quinn of Alumni. One special intention.