

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

Vol. XLI, No. 78

Friday, May 18, 1962

Notre Dame, Indiana

TOMORROW

Tomorrow, boxes will be placed in all the halls so that those who wish to do so may donate the clothes they've outgrown to the St Vincent de Paul Society. This Society's work for the needy in the South Bend area has been going on for more than thirty years. They appreciate and deserve any help given.

MANY THANKS

And while on the subject of charity, our thanks must go once again to the campus Council of the Knights of Columbus for their various contributions this year to charity. In all, these contributions came to about \$6500. Thanks are due also to the Student Senate Charity Chest for its charitable contributions. These contributions came to about \$4500. And to all who contributed generously to the special appeals on Mission Sunday, Laetare Sunday, and on the Sunday the Holy Cross missionaries made their appeal, many thanks. The more we become immediately involved in giving, the better the chance that charity will grow.

POPE JOHN XXIII

Last Sunday, in Rome, Pope John XXIII addressing 15,000 laymen in St Peter's, remarked: "A profound, convinced, and living supernatural spirit is the secret of the spiritual fruitfulness of every activity and of every form of apostolate. Exterior actions must be preceded by a basis intimately permeated by Divine grace, by frequent reception of the Holy Sacraments of Confession and of Communion, by continuous prayer, which is then expressed and executed in charity. Only then does action produce its fruits, which are not ephemeral but which are the continuous efficaciousness of an interior strength nourished at the springs of the very life of God."

SENIORS

Seniors planning to make a general confession before graduation, should plan to do so any evening in Dillon chapel, between 7:00 and 10:00.

THESE DAYS

Professor Eble won't find many disagreeing with his dictum: "Spring is the cruelest time of the year in academia." Inevitably, there are those who will be failed. And almost inevitably there will be days like the past few when temperatures soar and study becomes more difficult still. And, too, there are the distractions of nature. Add to all this the repeated admonitions of one's own conscience about a too casual attitude towards dress, the use of one's talents, and the property of others.

IN YOUR CHARITY

Please pray for the following. Deceased: Father of Rev. Thomas McNally, C.S.C.; Charles Stapf, Jr., '58; William H. Pluchel, '28; Thomas Lieb, '23; Joseph A. Craven, '18; grandfather of Dick Berry of Lyons; grandfather of Mike Byrne of Badin; grandfather of Tom Numainville of Farley; friend of Michael Murray, Off-Campus; Greg Kline. Ill: Mother and aunt of John Healey, Off-Campus; father of Mrs. Edward Krause; John P. Chapla, '23; friend of Jim Tierney of Cavanaugh; father of Jim Bray of Dillon. Three special intentions.

Recently, in Chicago, John Smyth was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Meyer. Some here remember John as captain of the basketball team here in 1957. The priest-alumni of Notre Dame joining the ranks of the priesthood each Spring at this time prompt us to reflect on these words of one of the priests here concerning the priest's relation to the Mystical Body.

The priest's active ministry for the members of the Church consists largely of spiritual instruction and guidance. But a more profound relationship exists between the priest and the faithful - a deep inner fellowship, a spiritual fatherhood. This is founded in the sacrament of baptism, administered normally by a priest. The representation and sacrifice of Christ in the Holy Eucharist manifests the mystical union of the members with Christ, and represents also the priest's paternal relation to the members of the Mystical Body.

This spiritual fatherhood is analogous to natural fatherhood. Both represent a fatherhood concerned with the natural and supernatural welfare of the members; but the paternal relationship of the priest through baptism is deeper since it pertains to supernatural life.

This relationship, rather than ceasing after the rebirth into a supernatural life through baptism, is deepened by the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. The continuation of fellowship between member and priest and the transmission of divine grace to the members intensify the vital union with Christ, while exalting and perfecting the spiritual fatherhood of the priest. Natural fatherhood continues to contribute to the material and spiritual welfare of the child after its birth, but it cannot deepen the relationship of the first fatherhood.

The priest's relation to the members of the Mystical Body is indeed that of a spiritual father. He is the specified instrument promoting the life and growth of the Body. This is the deepest inner significance of his unique, priestly power, of his inherent right to perform all sacramental liturgical functions with the sole exception of the sacrament of matrimony wherein the contracting parties are the ministers of the sacrament.