

# RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Notre Dame, Ind.

## THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

On Sunday the liturgy brings to our attention the Holy Family, recalling the sanctity and virtue that flourished in it in order that every Christian might emulate these virtues according to his place in family life. At present your role is that of sons who should look to the Divine Son as the model of your filial responsibilities within your own families.

Most of you will pass on, within a few years to the role of heads of households. Then St. Joseph becomes your model of marital chastity, industry, devotion, kindness, and of all the other virtues and obligations demanded of you as husbands and fathers.



The Holy Family

Most of you will be separated from your families on Holy Family Sunday. Consequently it would be especially appropriate for you to unite yourselves with your families through the sacramental union of the Eucharist. Father Peyton's Family Rosary Crusade uses the slogan, "The family that prays together, stays together." It is even more appropriate to say -- though not so euphonious -- that the family that dines together, stays together, especially when the members approach the Holy Table, even though miles apart, and partake together of the Bread of Life.

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IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR to think about final exams. Many of you are. It's edifying to see so many hitting the books with that added intensity that others are postponing until the day before the particular exam.

Prayer joined to your study in preparation for exams is a good idea. Of course, you can't expect miracles -- infusion of knowledge that should have been acquired by study. You can, however, ask God for the perseverance and peace of mind necessary to apply yourselves diligently to your preparation for the exams. You can ask God to sharpen your memories to recall in the exams the things you once learned. You can ask God to inspire you to study those things the prof might ask on the exams. You can ask that the profs be guided to ask the questions you are best prepared to answer. Shakespeare was thoroughly Christian when he wrote: "There is a destiny which shapes our ends." It isn't luck that helps us pass an examination but God's Providence reaching into the minutest details of our lives.

If, like the Prodigal Son, you have wasted your substance -- the hours, days, and weeks of the semester when you should have been study-

ing -- you can still approach your Heavenly Father begging for assistance and perseverance in your preparation that at least a portion of your inheritance of knowledge may be restored to you. You might not get the four's and five's you are capable of, but you may be able to salvage some two's and three's through the prayerful study that is possible only if you are united with God through sanctifying grace. And your return to the Father -- out of your selfish need for help -- should be a permanent one. Your prayer should include the resolution that you won't return to your delinquent ways.

It has been customary to set aside nine days this month for a Novena for Examinations. This year the novena will begin on Sunday, January 13, and will continue through January 21, the Monday before exams begin. There is nothing magic about the number nine, but the making of a novena sometimes helps one persevere through nine successive days of Masses and Holy Communions. It adds the extra incentive to overcome spiritual sluggishness. And if you persevere through nine days, you may establish a pattern that will carry you through daily Mass and Communion until the end of the semester -- and even into the next semester.

Whether you have been a diligent student, an intellectual opportunist, or an intellectual sluggard, it is your duty to spend the remainder of the semester in prayerful study -- including making the novena for success in the examinations.

To help clarify your motives and intentions in seeking God's assistance in preparations for the exams, make it a practice to say daily, especially during the novena, the accompanying prayer.

#### Blood Donors

Since the last request for blood donors, several units of blood from the Notre Dame Blood Bank have been released to patients in need. The account should be replenished. If you are physically able and charitably disposed to give a pint of blood, please call at 116 Dillon for an appointment.

#### In Your Charity

Please pray for the following. Deceased: grandfather of Joe Yoches of Cavanaugh; grandmother of John J. Davis, '62. Ill: grandmother of Richard Sobonya of Pangborn; grandmother of Jim Roberts of Dillon.

#### PRAYER FOR SUCCESS IN THE EXAMINATIONS

*O Lord and Liberator, enable me to understand the pattern of human life, in whose early years I now stand.*

*Confirm in me a trust in Divine Providence which rules all things sweetly.*

*By Thy gift of Counsel take away the limitations on my soul which make it timid and uncertain, and give me the strength to be constant and devoted in the cause of truth.*

*Help me to be numbered among the merciful as through the gift of Counsel I see the Divine pattern which gives meaning to human life.*

*Illumine the sorrows of human existence in the light of Divine destiny, so that I shall accept disappointments and loss with a serene soul.*

*Enlighten me to appreciate that no triumphs in this life are worthwhile unless they bring me closer to Thee Who, with the Father and the Son livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.*