Next Tuesday, March 9, is EASTERN DUTY DAY for all Catholics at Notre Dame...

University of Notre Dame
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Halfway: So What?

Half of Lent is over forever. Did you spend it like a coward or a dullard—in worldly self-indulgence, in undined hours at the movies and in the dance halls, in uncured eating and drinking, in sleepy childish mornings, in lazy listless days?

Or have you gone daily to Holy Communion, and to Mass with a missal in your hand? If so, you have read a daily instruction—in the prayers, in the epistles and gospels—that has kept you in the spirit of Lent.

Have you been studying more systematically? Have you made the way of the cross frequently? If so, you are impressed with the enormity of sin and with the urgency of doing penance.

No pope, no bishop, no priest invented Lent. Lent was invented by Christ Himself. Forty days and forty nights He spent in prayer and fasting in the desert. He never sinned, even venially, in His whole life. He had no personal sin to atone for.

But by His Lent He set an example that we may know how to acquire the humble and contrite heart which God on our deathbed will not despise.

Since Ash Wednesday you have abused grace enormously, or you have greatly profited by it. No chance now to rub out that fact.

Lent is half over, and you are more safely close to Heaven, or you are more dangerously near to Hell. That's the so-what of the halfway.

Another half of Lent remains. In which direction will it further take you—towards Heaven, or towards Hell?

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TRUSTED, FAITHFUL, FRIEND OF J.J. CULLIVAN (MOR.); JAMES H. YIELDS, ILL, Miss Tromley.