Two-thirds of student body started Novena for Mother today. Still time to start.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
High Mass, A. Zell's father, 6:25, Wed., M. Church; a request of student friends.

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Awareness of God's Presence.

"Whither shall I go from thy spirit, O Lord, or whither shall I flee from thy face..." 

"If I ascend into heaven, thou art there; if I descend into hell, thou art present..." 

"If I take my wings early in the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there also shall thy hand lead me; and thy right hand shall hold me," 

"And I said: Perhaps darkness shall cover me, and night shall be my light in my pleasures. But darkness shall not be dark to thee, and night shall be light as the day."

Here in the Psalmist's elegance is a most fruitful Christian truth, often neglected, God is not confined to His heaven; we are not isolated from Him on earth. Neither is Christ imprisoned in the chapel, nor are we distant from Him on the busy street.

God was not more present to the apostles and martyrs than He is to you in the state of grace. Try to realize it. Holy men and women made themselves aware of God's presence; that awareness transformed their lives; made them fearless, zealous, and just; made them think and talk and act as if God were with them.

That awareness can become the dominating influence in your life. (And if you can make the world, too, realize it, there will be no more wars or labor troubles, no longer difficulty in caring for the poor. This, the task of Christians.)

But, someone may say, people will be strained and fearful and self-conscious if they habitually think of God's presence. Not at all. That objection manifests a false, unchristian sense of God. Pagans and savages feared His face, but with Christ there came a new relationship between God and man, a relationship of confidence, of intimacy, of love.

Recall Christ and the two disciples chatting along the dusty road, and then at Emmaus: "And they drew nigh to the town where they were going: and he made as though he would go farther. But they constrained him saying: Stay with us, because it is towards evening, and the day is now far spent. And he went in with them, and...whilst he was at table with them, he took bread, and blessed, and brake, and gave to them."

Remember the oft-repeated words as He came again and again after the resurrection: "Peace be to you...It is I; fear not." He wanted no strain or fear amongst His friends.

Close-knitting charity that binds members among themselves and to their Head--this is the very essence of the Church that Christ established.

To you, God's presence should mean this: in weakness, He will--if you ask--invest you with His power; in temptation, His holy breath will be ever upon your cheek; in danger, He, your commander, will stand shoulder to shoulder with you in the trench.

"And I said: Perhaps darkness shall cover me, and night shall be my light in my pleasures. But darkness shall not be dark to thee, and night shall be light as the day."

If you would develop the habit of God's presence, often reflect: You need not seek God in the far heavens. Night and day He is in all creatures that surround you. In your neighbor especially He is present, and what you do to your neighbor, you do to God Himself. You yourself are a living tabernacle with the Blessed Trinity as your Guest.

Live, then, as if God were with you. Offer to him all that you do--your work, your play. Refer to Him your problems. Turn to Him often in quick and affectionate prayer.

The habit of realizing God's presence will transform your whole life; it will hurry the kingdom of God on earth by first establishing Him as the real King of your soul.

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Dean Konop; uncle of Tom Kavanagh (Dillon). Seriously ill, Bob Benavides (Sorin). Two special intentions. Ill; appendectomy, Bill Sharp(Alum.)