Outdoor Mass Tomorrow At The Grotto

Tomorrow afternoon at 5, the Holy Cross Fathers and Brothers terminate their Centenary Year of Papal Approval. And it is most fitting that they should do so with a Mass of Thanksgiving, and at a spot that also recalls a century of love and devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes -- the Grotto. Father Hesburgh will be celebrant; Father Mendez will speak briefly.

When Father Sorin placed the golden statue of the Mother of God atop the Dome for all the world to see and to venerate, and to learn immediately who was the patroness of the first Holy Cross school in the New World, he must have pleased God mightily! And there's no doubt at all that His Mother has watched over her household with a special interest all down the years. The blessings she has showered upon this school are without parallel in the annals of Catholic education. There have been epidemics, and fires, and wars; there have been heartaches and disappointments, and mis-understandings. Yet, she has watched over and guided the Holy Cross efforts here with a special maternal interest.

It's a great privilege for you to be present tomorrow at this Mass. Some of you will be representing your grandfathers; others, your fathers -- all of whom preceded you here. And tomorrow is a day for you to thank God for directing your footsteps to this hallowed spot dedicated to Our Lady, and placed under her protection for all time to come. It is a day to recall the many stalwart and generous individuals who labored here throughout the past century, and today sleep the sleep of peace in the humble little cemetery on the western edge of the campus.

Tomorrow is also a special time for all of us to beg God and His Blessed Mother to continue to send to the Family of Holy Cross a host of generous souls who will continue to add renown to this school, and augment her lists of saints and scholars.

When we pray for this sort of thing -- the success of Holy Cross workers in God's Vineyard -- it should be remembered that we do so with this single purpose in mind: that Our Lord and His Blessed Mother may be better known, and loved. For if we do not spend our efforts for the love of God, we have no reason to exist at all.

And so, tomorrow afternoon, the entire contemporary household of Notre Dame will gather at Her Shrine to give public thanks to God for all the blessings of the past hundred years. It is presumed that every able-bodied Notre Dame man will be there to participate in this blessed act of thanksgiving.

Tomorrow morning, we also lay the corner-stone for the new Moreau Seminary, now being built to train men who will staff Notre Dame in the future. We don't have the money for it yet, but we built it anyway, trusting -- as did Father Sorin so often when building this little City of the Mother of God -- that God will, in His own good time, provide for His own.

And just before the Mass, tomorrow afternoon, representatives of your Student Government will present, in your behalf, to Father Theodore Mehling, C.S.C., '29, Provincial, a gift for the new seminary. The money was realized at the recent Mardi Gras carnival. And remember: Communion will be distributed at the Mass. The fast requires you to abstain 3 hours from solid foods; one hour from liquid foods. Confessions at 4:30 in the Church. In case of rain, the Mass will take place in Sacred Heart Church.

Tomorrow is also Our Lady of Fatima Day. The Crowning of Our Blessed Mother will take place in a beautiful ceremony at the Fatima Shrine at 8 p.m. You are invited.