

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME  
Department of Public Information  
James E. Murphy, Director

61/21

EDITORS: PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE

For release in AM's, Sunday, March 12th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Mar. 11 -- President John F. Kennedy will receive the University of Notre Dame's Laetare (LAY-TAR'-RAY) Medal for 1961, it was announced here tonight (Saturday) by Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., University president. The award has been conferred annually since 1883 on an outstanding American Catholic layman.

Father Hesburgh, in announcing the selection of the President for the honor this year, said that Mr. Kennedy "in a most unusual way, at a most unusual age, and against unusually long odds, has risen to the top of his profession... Because of what he has accomplished in so few years, because of his unique position in the long list of distinguished American Catholic laymen, and because of the sincere hope placed in his vision, energy and dedication by so many Americans of all races and faiths, the University of Notre Dame is pleased to confer this year upon John F. Kennedy the highest honor within her power to bestow: The Laetare Medal."

The formal presentation of The Laetare Medal to Mr. Kennedy will be held at a place and time to be announced later. He is the 79th recipient of the award which has been won through the years by celebrated statesmen and soldiers, artists and industrialists, diplomats and philanthropists, educators and scientists.

Dr. George N. Shuster, former president of Hunter College, was the Laetare Medalist last year. Other recent recipients include former Under Secretary of State Robert D. Murphy, industrialist Frank M. Folsom, former U. S. Ambassador to Italy Clare Boothe Luce, General Alfred M. Gruenther, AFL-CIO president George Meany and Thomas E. Murray, formerly a member of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

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Other prominent figures associated with government or the armed forces who have worn Notre Dame's Laetare Medal include Edward Douglas White, Chief Justice of the United States (1914); Frank C. Walker, Postmaster General of the United States (1948); Alfred E. Smith, Governor of New York and Democratic presidential candidate (1929); General Joseph L. Collins (1950); Admiral William Shepherd Benson, Chief of Naval Operations (1917); General William Starke Rosecrans (1896) and diplomats Jefferson Caffery (1954), G. Howland Shaw (1945) and Carlton J. H. Hayes (1946).

Notre Dame's Laetare Medal was conceived in 1883 by Professor James Edwards of Notre Dame, and his idea met with the immediate approval of Rev. Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C., founder and first president of the University. The Laetare Medalist is selected each year by an award committee headed by the president of the University. The recipient is traditionally named on Laetare Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent and an occasion of joy in the liturgy of the Church. The presentation takes place later at the convenience of the recipient.

President Kennedy's association with Notre Dame began more than ten years ago. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University on January 29, 1950, when he was a member of the U. S. House of Representatives. As a U. S. senator, Mr. Kennedy accepted the annual Patriotism Award of Notre Dame's senior class and delivered an address at the Washington's Birthday Exercises on the campus in 1957. The President is also a member of the University's Advisory Council for the Liberal and Fine Arts.

The full text of Father Hesburgh's statement follows:

"The Laetare Medal has traditionally been regarded as the highest University award to a Catholic layman in America. It has been conferred annually since 1883 by the University of Notre Dame on a long list of Catholic laymen and lay women who have distinguished themselves in their chosen profession and way of life.

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"Among Laetare Medalists there have been distinguished generals, like William Rosecrans, J. Lawton Collins and Alfred Gruenther; Admirals like William S. Benson, Chief of Naval operations; jurists like Edward Douglas White, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; authors like Maurice Francis Egan, Agnes Repplier, Helen White and Carleton Hayes; artists like actress Irene Dunne and singer John McCormack; diplomats like Robert Murphy and Clare Boothe Luce. There have also been those who have distinguished themselves in public life, like Alfred E. Smith and Frank C. Walker.

"The Laetare Medal for 1961 is awarded to the new President of the United States, the Honorable John F. Kennedy. There is no question that in a most unusual way, at a most unusual age, and against unusually long odds, he has risen to the top of his profession. He stands there today as a kind of landmark for the place of young men in our times, as a symbol of the new energy, vision and dedicated service of youth to the public welfare. These qualities were born and tempered in the fires of global war, but are dedicated today in the highest sense to a new order of peace with justice and to the burgeoning hope of a better life for men everywhere.

"Because of what he has accomplished in so few years, because of his unique position in the long list of distinguished American Catholic laymen, and because of the sincere hope placed in his vision, energy and dedication by so many Americans of all races and faiths, the University of Notre Dame is pleased to confer this year upon John F. Kennedy, the highest honor within her power to bestow: The Laetare Medal."

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For release in AM's, Monday, March 13th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Mar. 12 -- Fourteen University of Notre Dame seniors today were named winners of Woodrow Wilson fellowships for a year of graduate study during 1961-62.

Sir Hugh Taylor, president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, Princeton, N. J., announced the names of 1,333 students from 381 colleges and universities who have been awarded grants valued at \$3,000,000. The fellowships cover the first year of graduate study and are meant to encourage the newly-elected fellows to consider college teaching as a possible career.

The Notre Dame winners in the nationwide competition among 10,453 nominees are Kenneth M. Brown, 1150 Skillman Ave., W., St. Paul, Minn.; Robert B. Burckel, 2310 Osage Ave., Louisville, Ky.; John J. Burns, Jr., 1011 Clay Ave., Scranton, Pa.; John C. Cahalan, 3037 Van Alstyne, Wyandotte, Mich.; John E. Clark, 12 Chatsworth Ave., Glyndon, Md.; Arthur Dechene, 3508 Third St., N., Arlington, Va.; and John H. Engler, 9 Hillcrest Road, Tenafly, N. J.

Also David C. Hudson, 2112 Wilson Ave., Fresno, Calif.; John K. Kealy, Jr., 6 King Ave., Piedmont, Calif.; Jerome T. Kriegshauser, 49 Berry Road Park, Glendale, Mo.; William D. Pflaum, 300 Squirrel Road, Dayton, Ohio; Joseph A. Pichler, 732 Belle-rive Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.; Guy D. Powers, 76-36 113th St., Forest Hills, N. Y.; and Mark E. Thompson, 2200 Oak Ridge Rd., Redding, Calif.

Eighty Notre Dame men have won Woodrow Wilson fellowships since the University first was represented in the competition in 1952-53. For several years the Notre Dame group has been one of the largest among the colleges and universities producing fellowship winners.

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For release in PM's, Tuesday, March 14th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Mar. 14---The appointment of Dr. Norman R. Gay as dean of the University of Notre Dame's College of Engineering effective July 1st was announced today by Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., University president.

Dr. Gay, who is a specialist in thermodynamics and heat transfer, currently is director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, College Station, Texas. He succeeds Dr. Mario J. Goglia who relinquished the post last year to become associate dean of faculties at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Harry Saxe, head of Notre Dame's department of civil engineering, has been serving as acting dean of the engineering school.

A native of Cortland, N. Y., Dean Gay holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester, a master's degree from Cornell University, and a doctorate from Purdue University. Except for two years' World War II service as a Navy lieutenant in the Pacific theatre, Dr. Gay taught in Cornell's thermal engineering department from 1942 to 1956. He has since served as staff engineer with the Bendix-Westinghouse Co. of Elyria, Ohio, and has been a consultant for a number of firms including Bendix-Westinghouse, Convector Manufacturers' Association, and the Consolidated Edison Co.

While an undergraduate at the University of Rochester, Dr. Gay was a member of the varsity football and track teams, president of the Students' Association and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi. He is a member of Sigma Xi, Pi Tau Sigma, The American Society for Engineering Education, The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers and The American Association of University Professors. He is a licensed professional engineer in New York State.

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For release in AM's, Thursday, March 16th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Mar. 15 -- The history of Swedish students and colleges at the University of Paris during the Middle Ages is the subject of a new book by Rev. A. L. Gabriel, O. Praem., director of the University of Notre Dame's Mediaeval Institute. The richly illustrated volume, Skara House at the Mediaeval University of Paris, has been published by the University of Notre Dame Press (\$4.00).

Using unpublished and hitherto unknown archive and library materials, Father Gabriel offers a vivid picture of the Parisian life of Swedish scholars recruited from such important cities as Upsala, Linkoping and Skara. The city of Skara, located between Goteborg and Stockholm, is well known today by American tourists for its splendid thirteenth century cathedral. It was an important ecclesiastical and cultural center during the Middle Ages. A canon of the Cathedral established the charitable foundation which created the House of Skara, also called the House of Notre Dame, from the picture of Our Lady which appeared above the entrance to the Swedish student hospice or college.

Lovers of old Paris will find Father Gabriel's book particularly interesting because of its new and picturesque information on the Latin Quarter, Quartier Latin, where Skara House was located. The volume includes illustrations of such old Swedish cities as Waxjo, Skara, Falkoping, Linkoping and Upsala as well as maps of Paris and seals of great Swedish scholars reproduced for the first time.

Father Gabriel's earlier book, Student Life in Ave Maria College, Mediaeval Paris, was awarded the Thorlet Prize of the French Academy des Inscriptions. The author recently presented a copy of the new volume to Mr. Edouard Morot-Sir, the French embassy's cultural attache in New York City.

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For release in PM's, Friday, March 31st:

Notre Dame, Ind., Mar. 21 -- Two University of Notre Dame musical organizations are headed in opposite directions on concert tours which will take them to the Atlantic and Pacific coasts during the Easter vacation period.

The Notre Dame Concert Band, directed by Prof. Robert F. O'Brien, will appear in six states from Ohio to Maine. Its program will include works by Wagner, Bach, Verdi and Strauss as well as modern compositions by Gould and Sauter-Finegan.

The Notre Dame Glee Club, under the direction of Prof. Daniel Pedtke, has concerts scheduled in Arizona, Nevada and several California cities. Highlights of the Glee Club's program will be "Testament of Freedom," based on the writings of Thomas Jefferson, and a medley commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Civil War.

The itinerary for the 48-piece Concert Band includes Toledo, Ohio, Apr. 2; Beaver Falls, Pa., Apr. 3; Williamsport, Pa., Apr. 4; Honesdale, Pa., Apr. 5; Boston, Mass., Apr. 6; Troy, N. Y., Apr. 7; Lewiston, Me., Apr. 8; Barre, Vt., Apr. 9; Little Falls, N. Y., Apr. 11; and North Canton, Ohio, Apr. 12.

The concert tour of the Notre Dame singers includes engagements in Pheonix, Ariz., Apr. 2; Las Vegas, Nev., Apr. 3; San Francisco, Calif., Apr. 6; Los Angeles, Calif., Apr. 8; Disneyland, Calif., and San Diego, Calif., Apr. 9; and Long Beach, Calif., Apr. 10.

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NEW RELEASES FOR MARCH, 1961

61/21	March 12	1961 Laetare Medalist, President John F. Kennedy
61/22	March 13	Woodrow Wilson Fellowship winners, 1961
61/23	March 14	Dr. Norman R. Gay, new Dean of Engineering
61/24	March 16	Rev. A. L. Gabriel's new book, <u>Skara House at the Mediaeval University of Paris.</u>
61/27	March 31	Glee Club and Band spring tours, 1961