

Feb. 13, 1925.

Can You Resist This Plea?

A letter from Van Wallace's mother reads: "I am writing to tell you that we had Doctor Cassidy, a Detroit specialist, in to see Van in the hope that he might be able to do something to help him as he has helped other cases of paralysis. After a thorough examination he said that neither operation nor medical science can do anything for him. Standing at Van's bed he said, 'This young man is a phenomenon, living on borrowed time.' "More than ever I feel that prayer has done for our boy what science could not do, and I am so thankful and grateful to the many students who have prayed for him. I still hope for the best and will not give up while there is life.

"Van's spirit keeps up amazingly, and he is still making plans to return to Notre Dame."

How Much of Your Time Has Van Borrowed?

Let us grant that Van has no right to be alive, from the medical standpoint; that he is "living on borrowed time", as the doctor puts it; that prayer has saved his life, and is prolonging it; how much of your time has Van borrowed?

Every once in a while a request comes from a hospital in the city for volunteers to give their blood for transfusion. There is a rush. That's Notre Dame spirit. Rather frequently during the past year students have been called upon to guard the University, by day or by night, or to perform other services equally disagreeable. There has been a stampede of willing candidates---willing to lose sleep, endure cold, miss a grid-graph, miss a meal or two, for the good of Notre Dame. That's Notre Dame spirit again. Time and again our athletes have been called upon during the past few months to outdo themselves in endurance---as in the Butler game the other night, or in the Minnesota hockey games, or the Stanford game---and they have always shown themselves game. That's Notre Dame spirit always.

These are all tangible situations. They confront you; they are all about you. Here is a proposition that is less tangible, but not less real, and it calls for the same Notre Dame spirit: Van Wallace needs a transfusion of your time, of your good works, of your merits, of your prayers, How much time will you give him? Fortitude includes patience,---is not complete without it. You would gladly give your blood to save his life, give it to the point of danger to your own life; that operation would be over in a jiffy. You are asked to give your blood now, drop by drop, as it were; you are asked to give your time, minute by minute.

Let's make up a giant spiritual bouquet for Van---of Communions, litanies, rosaries, visits to the Blessed Sacrament and to the Blessed Virgin, fasts---from food, from sleep (early rising), from shows, from dances, from smoking, from drink, from dates---hours and half-hours of adoration, Benedictions, Masses heard and said,---everything you can think up.

Promise so much a week until Van gets well.

Figure up what you can afford to do for Van, and write it all down on a slip. Leave the slips in the contribution box at the pamphlet rack.

Sign your name if you like, but you need not. Van will like to see the names of his friends, but it will also cheer his heart to know that those who never knew him love him and pray for him because they are real Notre Dame men.

LET EVERY STUDENT IN THE UNIVERSITY OFFER HOLY COMMUNION FOR HIM TOMORROW MORNING. The basketball team also requests a remembrance tomorrow morning. The Wabash game means a lot.

John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,
Prefect of Religion.