

When Notre Dame Spirit Counts.

Your mother back home believes in you, suffers for you, prays for you, builds all her hopes on you, loves you as only a mother can love. A month ago today Bill Mitchell died. How much that meant to his parents is revealed in the following letter, which they have addressed to you:

"To the students of the University of Notre Dame:

"Most of his life, and particularly after he entered Notre Dame, all of our plans were built around our son's future. Not a move was made without our considering its effect on the life of our son in the days to come.

"Then our Bill died -- our only child. The world stopped. Everything ended. Life offered us nothing. We had lost Bill, God had been cruel. There was no God. We had become weaklings. Nothing remained but black despair.

"Then came the Religious Bulletin of March 22nd. As we read it the first time we felt there was hope for us. We read it again and again. We realized we had been weak -- that we had not profited by our Catholic training; most of all, we knew that our Bill had been highly privileged with the grace of a happy death -- and our bitterness was dissolved.

"Later, when we received word of the splendid response on your part, and knew that you were continuing to offer Holy Communions in great numbers, that many Masses were to be heard and said for our son -- as well as for his parents -- only the irrepressible tears and mental anguish at our mental loss remained, and even that was tinged with the beautiful thought that our beloved son had already been admitted into the Divine Presence.

"Our Bill is in Heaven. We know that. And as our boy had to go we can thank God from the bottom of our hearts that he had the comfort of attendance of the priests of Notre Dame, and thereby enjoyed the consolations of the Church of God during his last hours on earth. This might not have been possible at another college.

"We will never forget your kindnesses, your prayers, the countless Communions offered by you before he died and after, the beautiful spirit which actuated you in caring for his mother during those few tragic days; and, although not rich in worldly goods, we will always respond to any appeal that will tend to advance Notre Dame or her students and faculty, and it shall never be said that we, whenever opportunity offered itself, failed to help you, either collectively or individually, both spiritually and in an earthly way.

"Since our boy was enrolled with you his whole being breathed the spirit of Notre Dame -- and enveloped us. We talked Notre Dame, even to the extent of boring some of our friends, we fear; we followed the athletic activities eagerly, we rejoiced at your victories and felt for you when you lost -- all of this while Bill was alive.

"Your Notre Dame spirit was even more perfectly demonstrated by you when he was injured, during his period of suffering and at his death, and if possible that spirit is even stronger in us than during the life of our Bill, and during our whole life that spirit will predominate.

"You have done much for us, men of Notre Dame. Words could never express our gratitude for even a fraction of your good deeds, but as long as we live we will pray for and praise you and the wonderful school which has molded your lives and the life and death of our beloved son Bill. May God bless you.

-- Mr. and Mrs. Jos. V. Mitchell."