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Prayers.

A former student of the Summer School, Miss Joyce, died Saturday of injuries caused by an automobile; another lady who was killed by an auto a few days ago is recommended to your prayer. Gail Carr's grandmother died a few days ago; a deceased priest, a deceased relative, and a deceased friend are also recommended by other students. Bernard Bird, of Buffalo, a senior, asks a continuance of prayers for his father, whose condition is growing more grave. Edward Flynn reports that his uncle was killed in the building collapse which injured his father last week. Five special intentions are reported. Fr. Richards, C.S.C. asks prayers for his father who is very ill.

The Open Season For Atheists.

The grace of God abounds during Lent. Those who resist it become worse than they are at other times, hence it is the open season for atheists. You can expect to see them crop up all over the campus and over town for the next few weeks -- fellows who for one reason or other are afraid to go to confession, and try to salve their consciences by declaring themselves atheists. Lent makes them mad, for one thing; the example of the other students gives them an emotional kick that they try to discount by big talk. And for another thing, their resistance to the grace of God hardens their hearts and holds off a conversion that would otherwise come quickly if good spirit were shown.

On the other hand, it is the open season for big conversions. They come all through the holy season -- some of them at school, some at home after leaving school. Many of those whose conversion comes at home check in with a letter. They feel so good about it that they have to communicate their joy to those who may be interested. One such letter came Saturday. In part, it reads:

"Reverend and dear Father: It is now past midnight and likewise past my bedtime, but I had a glorious "something" happen to me today that I am sure you would be glad to hear. For the first night in more than two years I go to bed with full faith in the God and the religion of my forbears.

"It may seem odd that I should write to tell you this, but even during my would-be agnostic days at Notre Dame you seemed interested, and somehow it seems to me that you would share some of the joy that this change has brought to me. May God bless you and Notre Dame, and may He also continue to show the wilfully blind, such as I was, the light."

Just keep this analysis of the situation in mind if any friend of yours starts to shoot off his mouth in irreligious tenor. Don't take the case too seriously; ninety nine times out of a hundred it is only a pose, and the poser craves attention and is confirmed in his error if he gets it. Few Notre Dame men die without the Last Sacraments. A few of them do, of course, and for them we may fear; and for all Notre Dame men who neglect their religion or oppose it we should pray fervently.

Don't be deceived by arguments. They mean nothing. No man in his right mind who does any thinking at all can be an atheist. There is no such animal. (But keep one more thing in mind: The devil is mad at Notre Dame.)

The Financial Crisis.

A statement submitted Saturday by the Treasurer's Office shows that the pamphlet rack started this year with a deficit of \$130.30, that expenditures in the two months since that time were \$965.27, while receipts from various sources here and elsewhere were \$696.53, leaving a deficit of \$399.04. Add to this unpaid bills of approximately \$200.00. The pamphlet rack is badly in need of new stock, but more Lenten offerings will have to come in before anything can be done about it.