

Religious Bulletin  
September 19, 1929

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Fifty-Seven Years A Priest.

A distinguished company will gather in the church this morning to pay the last respects to a famous member of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and to pray as they would pray for the humblest Catholic in the world, for the eternal repose of his soul. There are marks of distinction, of course. An archbishop will sing a Pontifical Mass, and there will be pontifical absolutions following the Mass; the corpse, being that of a priest, will lie with the feet, and not the head, towards the altar. But the essence of the prayers of the ritual will be the same as that followed for the lowliest layman, saint or sinner -- and those who knew Father Français will tell you that he was a very saintly man.

Sixty-two of Father Français' eighty years were spent in the religious life, fifty-seven of them in the priesthood. When Father Sorin was growing old, he was given a coadjutor superior general, and Father Français was elected to that office; he then continued in his own right on the death of Father Sorin, in 1893. He resigned this burden three years ago.

He was expelled from France through the operation of the Law of Seapartion, in 1904, and since that time he has resided mostly at Notre Dame or in the vicinity; the last eighteen years of his life were spent at St. Joseph's Farm, nine miles from here. He was a man of prayer, intensely devoted to the religious life, on which he has written some excellent treatises. Great suffering marked these last years of his life, and these he accepted with resignation and offered for the welfare of the community.

God has taken him to a well-merited reward, but the Church prays for all her faithful departed, and the students of Notre Dame will feel that they have a special debt of charity towards the spiritual father of the religious who conduct this school.

Another Veteran Priest Dies.

The students here from Dixon, Illinois, ask you to join with them in prayers for the repose of the soul of their pastor, Father Michael Foley, who was in charge of their parish for the past 38 years; he died at the age of 79. Father Foley was a Notre Dame student in the early days, so he has a special place in your prayers.

For Rupe Mills.

By request of the Monogram Club, the Mission Mass tomorrow morning at 6:30 in the church will be offered for the repose of the soul of Rupe Mills, and all students of the University, whether present at Mass there or in their hall chapels, are requested to offer Holy Communion for this intention. (The first six pews on the right aisle will be reserved for the Monogram Club.) Rupe was one of the most beautiful spirits ever graduated from Notre Dame. His mother was crushed by his sudden death, and for her sake you are requested to fill out the following bouquet of your spiritual offerings for the repose of his soul:

Holy Communions

Masses said

Masses heard

Stations

Rosaries

Visits;

Aspirations and other prayers