

Has Notre Dame Wasted Four Years on You?

The Class of 1931 will appear today in cap and gown for the first time when it presents the flag to the University. The occasion carries its own thrill. It is often the awakening of some mind that has lain dormant here for four years. It is a proper time for seniors to ask themselves a question: "Has Notre Dame wasted four years on me?"

A year ago that question was put to you through the medium of the Religious Survey. It was stated in this form: "What is your objective in going to college? Are you fulfilling it? The answers from the seniors of 1930 were as follows:

An education.....	23
Economic improvement.....	21
Intellectual improvement.....	20
To prepare for life.....	16
Spiritual development.....	14
Social improvement.....	13
A profession.....	11
Culture.....	9
A Catholic education.....	6
To train my character.....	4
A degree.....	4
To be a Catholic gentleman.....	3
Miscellaneous.....	12

Fifty-three stated that they were fulfilling their objective, at least to the best of their ability, thirty-six expressed doubts, nine were willing to let time be the judge, and two expressed a flat negative.

Three came here to be Catholic gentlemen. In their happy choice of expression of their objective, they stated the purpose of this University -- a purpose which has never been concealed from you during your four years here. It is to that end that she shapes her training. She has told you from the beginning of your course here that she wants you to amount to something in the eyes of God and of man: to do that you must be a Catholic gentleman.

How far do you fall short of Notre Dame's objective for you? Has she shown, by allowing you to remain here for four years, that she thinks more of you and your future prospects than you think of yourself? She has, if you have persisted through four years in rejecting her wise counsels of industry, of sobriety, of loyalty to principle, of respect for womanhood. She has, if you have rejected her invitation to use the means of grace for the development of a truly Christian character.

On the other hand, if you have shown that you respect yourself, she rejoices with you today. She is happy in feeling that most of her sons are worthy, that in most cases her confidence in boys is justified. With the angels in heaven she rejoices over the one sinner who does penance as well as over the ninety-nine just who need not penance.

There is a point to these reflections. Once you don a cap and gown you begin to see the gates of school close behind you, and in the new perspective you get a strange light on some of your problems. Two kinds of seniors see that they have made mistakes: the fool sees it and shrugs his shoulders; the wise man sees it and sees also that he still has time to make amends.

PRAYERS: Edwin and Robert Rohrbach ask prayer for their father, who has recently undergone a serious operation, and for an aunt who is ill. A cousin of Bob Law died recently. A nephew of a student is ill with pneumonia. Four special intentions.