

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
October 23, 1933

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1921-1933.

Tomorrow, October 24, is the twelfth anniversary of the Religious Bulletin. It began its humble existence on October 24, 1921, with an issue of seven copies, intended for the six halls then in operation at the University, and the bulletin board at the car stop, for off-campus students. It was entitled, "Mission Bulletin," and its purpose was to call attention to certain abuses noted that morning, the first day of the Mission. Other abuses on the succeeding days of the Mission brought other Bulletins.

The Mission ended, and so did the Bulletin. Then students began to ask for more. The present title was adopted, and issues appeared two or three times a week. Then a request was made for a daily issue, and this demand was also met. Carbon copies remained the rule for three years thereafter; the mimeographing began only in September, 1924. Even then, copies were furnished for only a limited number of students - those who called at the office for them - and the request was made that the circulation outside the University be restricted to known friends who would understand local conditions and would see in the text the exaggerated outlines of a caricature.

In October, 1929, the University decided to furnish each student with a copy daily, and to mail the Bulletin to alumni and friends who might ask for it. The number of off-campus students was large at that time, and some eight hundred copies were mailed to this group. The mailing list outside the vicinity began to grow by leaps and bounds; today it numbers some 2,000, including more than 400 schools, in most of which it is posted or read daily by the students.

A conservative estimate of the number of readers today is 100,000. It goes to nearly every state in the Union, and to fifteen foreign countries. The correspondence which it brings in requires a considerable portion of the time of one secretary.

Why is it read by students? A student answering that question on his questionnaire a few years ago made this reply: "I like it because it talks things over in my language, and I don't have to say 'Yes, yes,' to it when I mean, 'No, no.'" That's probably the best answer. It discusses the questions the students bring in, and it discusses them in their own language. The background of its arguments are the principles of Catholic faith and morals - and that's a solid background. Its form is based on personal interviews with thousands of students, over a good many years. Its materials are always fresh because the questions discussed are reflections of campus discussions.

A prayer for the Bulletin is always in order. An anniversary suggests such a prayer. The editor frankly confesses a fondness for St. Joseph in this connection, and admits that a prayer to this Saint has always made apparently difficult Bulletins easy of composition. We publish the fact for the first time - in acknowledgement of favors received, and as a suggestion to others.

The Novena For Father O'Donnell.

The feast of St. Charles Borromeo, November 4, is the patronal feast of Father O'Donnell, President of the University. A Novena to this great Saint, famous Archbishop of Milan, for Father O'Donnell's complete and speedy recovery, is a very proper offering. Don't let it be said that you are unmindful of the great need of prayers for Fr. O'Donnell; it is for us that he has sacrificed his health - we should pray it back to him. (The main altar in the chapel of Alumni Hall is dedicated to St. Charles Borromeo. You may wish to say your novena prayers before this altar.)

PRAYERS: Ill - Wm. Burns' sister; a nephew and sister of one of the priests; Bob Corcoran's mother (operation); two friends of students (one dying of tuberculosis). A deceased friend. Six special intentions.