

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
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This Subject Has Ramifications.

There will be a Mass said privately tomorrow for the next one of us to die. It will be said privately because if it were said publicly in the church there would be only a meagre congregation present. Those who are interested will hear Mass and receive Holy Communion in their hall chapels. Those who are not interested will sleep - as usual.

Sorin Hall will probably sleep. Sorin was represented at the Mass this morning, of course; we noticed one representative.

If the next one to die lives in Sorin we would suggest that he transfer to a more charitable hall before he dies so that he will have someone at his Mass.

We pray for the next one to die because the most important moment of life is the moment of death, and for that moment we need all the graces we can get.

Your attention has often been called to the fact that in more than fifty per cent of the deaths recorded here during the last decade, less than fifty per cent of the victims have had a chance for confession after they were stricken. In nearly all of these cases, happily, the beautiful lives led by the victims constituted a remarkable guarantee that their souls were ready for God.

The only real tragedy in life is the death of a man who is not ready for God.

A Novena for Health was announced yesterday at Mass. You were invited to offer this for yourself, for your relatives and friends, for those who depend on the prayers of your fellow-students.

Those who will not make this Novena are the ones who need it most. Those who refuse to make it a point to live in the state of grace need rugged health, good traffic protection, and bullet-proof vests.

Before this Novena is over there will be many requests for prayers for close relatives who are dangerously ill. Let us hope that all who hand in these requests will be able to do so with a clear conscience. Too often requests for prayers come from those who, apparently, never say a prayer themselves.

Some years ago a student who had not received Holy Communion for a year and a half came in with an urgent request for prayers for his mother. He was told that the request would be printed on one condition - that he offer Holy Communion for his mother. For a long time after that he complained bitterly that his request for prayers for his mother had been ignored. It wasn't, of course; it appeared as a special intention, but out of charity to him the name was suppressed: too many students had heard him bragging of his "atheism." (He was the usual sort of atheist - he refused to acknowledge his belief in God until everything else failed him.)

Who will be the next one of us to die? Probably the one who least suspects it. Our special providence has a tendency to make us careless. (Only three students have died from sickness since September, 1927 - keep that in mind when you complain of the food or of the medical service.) But of the 2500 students and 200 and some faculty members one is the next to die - may die this year, this month, this week. Will that one be at Mass and Holy Communion tomorrow? There is a 60-40 chance that he will not be. What are you going to do about it? Settle that between yourself and God.

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PRAYERS: Deceased - the father of Bob Barrett, '32; a brother of Jos. Kafter, former professor here; an uncle of Savino Cavender; two friends. Operations - Ray Chea; Henry Pirry's mother; Wm. Murray's father. Four special intentions.