

Bengal Benefit Bouts  
after church tonight

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
March 21, 1934

Mass 6:25 tomorrow  
for Bruce Graham

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A Plea For The Cloister.

"What is the most sacred memory of your religious life at Notre Dame?" That question in the Religious Survey of the Alumni brought from one man the following response: "The mental peace of a monastic which I enjoyed the first two years."

There still is, then, mental peace. It is monastic. It may be enjoyed for at least two years. We commend these facts to the understanding mind of that wholesome prince of commentators, O.O. McIntyre, who "longed" as follows in last Saturday's column:

"I'd like to "recollect" with some of the old-timers and be refreshed by a firmer belief in God and the promises of a pleasant Hereafter. In the fog of so much misunderstanding I long more than ever for the cheerful shine of an outdated mode. Certainly modernity has botched things up."

And we commend it to those freshmen who are as yet unspoiled. If a freshman coming to this cloister could only understand what a blessed thing it is to be and to remain unsophisticated, he would cut off his right hand rather than lose the cheerful freshness that belongs to an untarnished soul.

Who knew the world better than Thomas a Kempis, who spent his life in a cloister? In all the world's literature you will find, outside the Bible, nothing more penetrating than the observations on life that fill the "Imitation of Christ".

Happy the freshman, happier still the senior, whose interest in 'botched-up modernity' is purely academic. Beer parlors, dance halls, tinselled movie 'palaces', symbols of the nerve-racking sensuality that passes for "recreation" and "entertainment" nowadays, publish to the world the shame of a nation which has gone to seed intellectually.

Notre Dame is a cloister where one can find time and inclination to think. (It may be necessary for you to stuff cotton in your ears to shut out the blare of radio jazz and low comedy, but at least you don't have to go to town.) A Father Hudson may spend a lifetime on the campus, may never see a movie or eat in an automat, and may have all the thinkers of his time making pilgrimages to his door because he thinks. Father Hudson's keen comments showed that he was thoroughly familiar with the world's events, but their delicate flavor showed that his soul was untouched by the world's sordidness. Father Hudson's 'peace' lasted not merely for two years but for a lifetime.

Pray for sense. You choose Notre Dame for your school because of something distinctive that it has to impart. And so many of you immediately turn your backs on what is so distinctive here and go to town for the jazzy banality you came here to forget.

Pray for sense. Some men come here and spend four years trying to modernize Notre Dame, telling us wherein we lack certain elements of sophistication which are distinctive of secular education. Perversity can go far.

Daily Communion gives you the groundwork of peace. It helps you to discover your soul. If you heed the promptings of grace ever so little you can find here the elements of civilization. If you follow the beckoning of sacrifice still further, you can discover Christian culture. It is here, but it lies hidden from the eyes of the sophisticates. (It isn't something you can buy by the yard and have made into a suit; it isn't something that you can put on and off at will; it is something that grows in the soul.) The cloister is here if you would find it. Clean hearts do find it - and with it peace.

PRAYERS: Deceased - an aunt of Bill Moss; an uncle of Robert Doran, '26; Ed Caldwell's grandfather. Ill - an uncle of Robert Burko. Three special intentions.

ANNIVERSARY MASS - 7:30 Thursday, Dillon chapel, for Col. Hoynes, (Law Club).

CAPS IN ADORATION: Thursday - 8:30(2); 2:30.