

Benediction and  
Rosary after dinner  
Saturday.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
October 26, 1934

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An Ideal.

An ideal is a goal towards which one is, however slowly, always progressing.

The goal cannot be impossible to reach, or it becomes the occasion of mere day dreaming. To hope for the jar of gold at the bottom of the rainbow, to wish another world and another people that might be more easily mastered, these are idle speculations, objects of fruitless dissipation of energy.

The ideal must be suitable to the nature and age and talents of the one who selects it.

To adopt strange mannerisms of speech and of carriage, to affect the mild manner when one by nature is the direct opposite, these efforts bear about them the stamp of artificiality.

Listen now to the following paragraphs taken from the Commencement address delivered last June by Edwin J. Shanahan at Rockhurst College, Kansas City, Missouri:

"The young man does not have to rely upon precept alone to tell him the way he should go. He has many inspiring examples among his elders. Where is there a more inspiring example than the story of the young boy brought up on the sidewalks of a great city, who had to leave school when he was in the eighth grade to become the sole support of his widowed mother and who met the responsibility manfully and went out and sold newspapers to keep hunger from the door!

"As the years went by, through the sheer force of character and ability, he rose unstained and undaunted above the handicap of his youthful environment to become the foremost citizen of his commonwealth and the idol of countless millions everywhere who love character. Nor did he forget the prayers his mother taught him. He preferred her teachings to compromising his principles for the highest honor within the gift of his countrymen.

"He met the test, he never weakened, he kept his colors flying proudly always, and they are flying proudly still. Though he saw his high hopes dashed to earth beneath the backwash of bygone centuries, yet with a clear conscience and exalted spirit he could put on his brown derby and go out and look up at the stars."

Here is a definite, practical ideal, one, not of words or of fancy, but of flesh and blood.

No good to imitate Al Smith's New York accent if you happen to hail from the mountains of Tennessee. But wherever you come from you can try to imitate his cheerful manner under injustices, his heroic use of talent and opportunity, his bold and optimistic treatment of adversity.

You need not, out of admiration for Al Smith, start wearing the brown derby--not here on the campus anyway--but you can like him always stand for your religion whatever be the cost.

PRAYERS: Deceased, father of Sam Hyde '33; Rev. Michael McBurney, of Pittsburgh, an old friend of Notre Dame; father of Bernard J. Zimmerman '34; grandmother of Joe Gilchrist. Ill, Don Levine, friend of students; cousin of Phil Heinlo. 6 sp. ints.