

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 24, 1935

To College Lambs.

Here is an open letter, written by a Notre Dame student who evidently knows something of life's ways and hardships:

"Graduation day! What does it mean to you fellows who have never dirtied your hands at a man's job, who know so pitifully little of the tumult, chaos, and hardships that await you?

"Graduation day is not a day of joyous exuberance to those who realize what is to come. The four years you spend in college are like the training period of a soldier. After that, comes the battle--the bitter strife, the wounds. The soldier has the best of it. When he falls in action that is the end of everything. When you fall, the bullet that strikes is failure; and that, my college lambs, is living death.

"Failure is caused more by foolishness than by ignorance--more by thoughtlessness and lack of the power to plan in important matters of life. Look into the mirror of your souls, my lambs, and study the flaws in your character reflected there. Do you see the lack of self control? What are you doing to correct it?

"You have observed the 18th Amendment become a relic of the past. You, like the majority, thought it a ridiculous law, and so it turned out to be. But you may live to see that same law in this country again!

"Many college men think it is smart to drink. They boast of their drinking bouts and the quantity they can hold. I once heard a fellow say, 'No matter how much I drink I never get tight.' He was either inexperienced or a liar. Drink is a real threat to the sovereignty of any man, no matter what his capacity. Don't forget that!

"My dear college lambs, anyone can go out and get drunk. Anyone can have loose morals. It does not take a real man to brag about that. But it does take a real man to abstain from liquor and lead a clean life. He is the man who has the right to boast. And yet, you seldom hear that type of fellow boasting."

To prove his sincerity, the writer signed the pledge and dropped it into the box at the Dillon Hall Pamphlet Rack. Maybe you, too, feel the inherent urge of helping the other fellow take a step that may be all-important in his life. If so, there is still plenty of room in the pledge boxes, and we shall try to find place in the Bulletin for the message that you may care to write.

Another letter from a student, on the same subject, ends with this significant paragraph:

"A great thing about the pledge is this: it will influence Catholic youths, and even non-Catholics, who look up to Notre Dame men as to their ideals. That reason should be enough to make most N.D. men sign the pledge. Little do most of us realize how many characters we would be thus helping to mould here on the campus and away from Notre Dame."

PRAYERS: Deceased, father of Thomas F. Radlicki; mother of Bill Hayden, friend of the University; uncle of Bill Kennedy (Walsh). Ill, aunt of James Quinn (Carroll); Joe Sullivan (St. Ed's.); Robert Korn; Bill Rankin (Morrissoy); John Hackett (St. Ed's.). Five special intentions.