

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 25, 1935

The Spirit of St. Paul.

Today ends the official novena for exams, as well as the Church Unity Octave. Thank God, all the hall chapels have been busy each of the nine mornings, as they should be every morning here at Notre Dame.

You may be sure that you have done inestimable good to those whose conversion you prayed for. You may be sure, too, that there will be conversions following this Octave, as there have been every year before.

Last year, for example, a lady modestly asked at the beginning of the Octave that her non-Catholic husband and mother-in-law be remembered. They were. A day or so after the Octave ended came a second letter, a happy and grateful letter, from the same lady. Her husband and his mother had begun taking instructions.

There were five other conversions attributed last year to your Masses, Communions, and prayers.

This year, if the grace of conversion is given to any of those you prayed for, send in--anonymously if you like--acknowledgement of the conversion.

Today, you know, is the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul--the greatest conversion, perhaps, in the whole history of the Church. Saint Paul was a fiery man of small stature and brilliant mind. He was tremendously active--heart and soul in anything that he set his hand to. Holy Writ describes him, before his conversion, as "breathing out thunderings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord."

As a young man of 31 he rode horseback one day to persecute the Christians of Damascus. Something happened on the way. A light suddenly shone round about him, and falling on the ground he heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

Paul recognized the unearthly quality in the voice, which continued, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest."

And, in his genuine way, Paul rose from the ground and, following faithfully the successive commands of Our Lord, became the greatest Apostle in the Church.

Saint Paul could "take it" for a noble cause. The Jews whipped him five different times--39 stripes to a whipping. Three times he was beaten with rods, once he was stoned, three times he suffered shipwreck and spent a night and a day "in the depth of the sea." He trudged all over the East by land and sea and as far west as Rome he travelled. Sometimes he was menaced by robbers; at other times, by hateful pagans and Jews. In hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness, he labored to spread the Gospel of Christ.

He never whimpered, never let up, until they struck off his head outside the city of Rome.

Go into your exams, into your studios again after exams, into your moral and religious life, even into your games, in the spirit of Saint Paul--full of courage, of heart, and of faith.

Give everything you've got and leave the outcome to the care of the good God.

PRAYERS: Deceased, father of Gerard Hodges '32; father of Philip Armstrong, Glockner Sanatorium, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Mr. E. A. Ridgely, friend of the Dept. of Pharmacy; cousin of Tom Cassidy; aunt of J. Mastrangelo (Dillon). Ill, Joe Sullivan (St. Ed's.); John Maokott (St. Ed's.); Bill Rankin (Morrissey); Joe Canale (Morr.). Seven special intentions.