

**University of Notre Dame**  
**Religious Bulletin**  
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**“Not a Sparrow Shall Fall . . . .”**

“Fear ye not them that kill the body and are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear ye him that can destroy both body and soul in hell.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And not one of them shall fall on the ground without your Father . . .

“Fear not therefore: better are you than many sparrows.”—St. Matthew, 10:28-31.

It is useless with feeble imagination and crumb of wisdom to search out the counsels of the Most High. When something happens in the Providence of God that strikes deeply, we are tempted to draw conclusions, to rationalize, even to question the wisdom of God.

It is because of that temptation that Our Blessed Lord gave to His disciples, when He was sending them out to preach, the instruction quoted above.

It is to this promise of Our Divine Lord that we must run for consolation in the tragedy of John Cushing's death. Human wisdom eases no pain in such crushing sorrow. Loving and faithful husband and father, loyal alumnus and devoted friend, a citizen of strong and upright character, John Cushing stood out among Notre Dame men as emblematic of everything good and noble. Notre Dame took just pride in his achievements, she was ever grateful for his princely benefactions, she cherished him in her heart with deepest affection.

When such a man is cut off in the midst of his days, when his growing family is still leaning on him for guidance and counsel, one asks why—and the world is silent.

Not so Faith. Faith, “the substance of things to be hoped for, the evidence of things that appear not,” tells us that God took him because He loved him. John Cushing understood, with all humble Catholics, that this life is nothing compared with the life to come; that this life is only a preparation for another, glorious and unending life that begins when the soul is separated from the body; that the follower of Christ must be ever ready, ‘for at what hour we know not the Son of Man will come.’

God must have a special affection for men and women who in this day of selfishness accept the vocation of parenthood with a full sense of the duties it entails. John Cushing was generous to God in giving Him souls for Heaven, and his devotion to his large family was a stirring lesson to the shameless men and women who attempt by word and example to frustrate God's plan of creation.

John Cushing must be enjoying today the special reward God has reserved for those who cheerfully defy the world while they live in its midst, and who spread the sunshine of faith in the dark corners of ignorance and malice. And he must be enjoying the special reward that Mary, Mother of all good Notre Dame men, has in store for her favorites—for John died on the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary.

John Cushing will never be forgotten at Notre Dame. The building he erected for the College of Engineering may crumble and pass away, but the spiritual influence of his life will live on in those who will be enabled, through his generosity, to learn logarithms and Christian Doctrine together. And Notre Dame never ceases to pray for her sons and benefactors. May God be good to his beautiful soul, and may Our Blessed Lady stand, in these trying days, close to the devoted family that grieves his going.

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Solemn requiem high mass in main church at 6:25 tomorrow morning. All students please attend and offer Mass and Holy Communion for Mr. Cushing.

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PRAYERS: Ill, a friend of Tom Quinlan (Morrissey); Mike Layden; Carl Doozan; Fred Fromhart; Sister Mary Elizabeth, relative of a Notre Dame priest.