
On Becoming A Notre Dame Man.

A plain penny postcard brings the following request: "Please explain in the Bulletin how I can learn to love the Virgin Mary. I'm afraid I don't love her now. I do know her worth, but I want to love her. --A Notre Dame Student."

Go down to the Grotto and there in the quiet shadows look up to the statue of Our Lady. Statues are just statues, of course. But this one in its environment at the Grotto seems to lift hearts up to Our Lady in Heaven. Pledge these words to Mary, and mean every syllable of them:

My Queen, my Mother, I give myself entirely to thee, and to show my devotion to thee I consecrate to thee this day my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my whole being without reserve. Wherefore, good Mother, since I am thine own, keep me, guard me as thy property and possession.

Resolve that you will repeat this prayer every morning of your life. Then sit down on one of the benches and try to realize all that you have done. You have engraved Our Lady's monogram deeply upon your own heart. Henceforth, as student and alumnus, at Notre Dame and off the campus, your thoughts, words and deeds must draw her approval.

True love, you know, means the giving of one's self. Can you learn a little better how to give yourself to Mary?

Give your intellect to the veneration that she deserves. You say you know her worth. Let us be sure. Are you aware of the veneration that God the Father showed to Mary? He sent an angel to salute her: "Hail full of grace! Blessed art thou among women!" He asked Mary to consent to her part in the Incarnation. The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity obeyed and revered and loved Mary as His mother in the same household for thirty years. God the Holy Ghost directly conspired and cooperated with Mary towards the conception of Jesus in her womb.

Let Mary stand in your estimation where she belongs, as the nearest creature to God, in dignity and power far above all angels and saints. In that spirit of veneration, say the rosary, the angelus, the memorare, the magnificat and the long litany of praises and petitions that Catholic love has inspired within the last 1900 years.

Give her your heart as a son--earnest, simple, tender, and generous. She is not hard to love. If she were, someone else would have been the Mother of God. She is tactful, understanding, compassionate and devoted. See her on the way to cousin Elizabeth to share her womanly secret and her gift. Observe her plotting at Cana to prevent humiliation to the young married couple. And on Calvary, admire her standing steadfastly by her crucified Son. She will stand by you that way.

Mary wants your confidence. Every blessing that comes from God to man passes through her hands. You are not perfect. She does not expect that all of a sudden. She wants you to try. She is the refuge of sinners. Your sins, your weaknesses, your miseries make her all the more anxious to help you. The justice of God may frighten you; you can never be afraid at the feet of the Mother of mercies.

Mary had something to do with your coming to Notre Dame. If you consecrate yourself at the Grotto, she will have prevailed upon you in an even more important way. Try your best to keep the spirit of your contract. If you do, she will have much to do with your living, all to do with your death.

PRAYERS: (deceased) brother of Father Winnick; grandmother of Joe Dray (Fresh.); friend of William Page (How.); nephew of Jake Kline; aunt of Prof. Paul Fenlon. Ill, friend of Robert C. Strob, '32; cousin of Kenneth O'Moara (Fresh.); friend of Bill Murphy (Carroll); Fr. Ray Norris, St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, Minn. --Deceased; uncle of Mr. Harry Northway, C.S.C. (Novitiate); grandfather of Robert Bruzok (Lyons).