

Paul Breting (Cav.) is seriously ill, and needs your prayers.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 25, 1938

Stations, Sacred Heart Church, 7:00 p.m. for Brownson and Carroll.

Joe Kibitzer's Complaint.

Joe Kibitzer (McGutzky's pal), like many sophomores, enjoys a bad case of sophomoritis. His dad calls it the omniscience blues. You'd like Joe, though, big-hearted, dapper, conceited enough to command attention.

Religious? Oh, yes, after a fashion. It is his special gripe. Fundamentally he's a protestant: "I protest. There's too much religion around this place...morning and evening prayers....Bulletins galore...priest-propaganda spread with a carving knife."

Well, we catch our campus rebel in such a mood again this evening.

"I tell you, Father, there's too much religion for any white man."

"Too much religion at Notre Dame? Say, there isn't half enough here or any other place. But you knew what you were getting into. You were warned beforehand. The catalogue, the Manual, the Eucharistic Calendar, the Mission, every instrument of propaganda told you what kind of life you were expected to live. You stayed, didn't you, when you still had time to transfer to another school. Well, you're inconsistent if you keep on complaining."

"Maybe I am. But right now that's beside the point, Father. I like to look at things objectively. As a matter of fact, to force me to attend morning and evening prayer, for example, is carrying religion just too far."

"Force? Persuade is the correct word, Josie. To get to the point. You admit you're dependent on God for everything? You admit your chief job in this life is to save your soul? And you've learned in Apologetics that you have a grave obligation to practice some kind of religion, the true religion if you find it, or have it."

"Y-e-s, the Sisters taught me most of that."

PRAYERS: (deceased) aunt of John Gutowski (Dillon); Newman Guthrie, friend of Roger Huter (Carroll); J. Frank Bennett, friend of Tom Foy (Walsh); Mrs. Otto Bridge, friend of Tim King (Off-Campus); anniversary of mother of Geo. Wilson (Mor). Ill, father of Dan Bradley (Zehm); grandmother of Gerald Faller (How); friend of Jim Shiely (Lyons); father of Bill Waters (Dillon). Seven special intentions.

"Now....if common sense tells you you're so much in need of God, then you owe him not only adoration and thanksgiving, but penance and prayer.

"You can't save your soul without God's help. You're morally sick, like the rest of us. You need help from above to keep on the right road. I don't care how rich your aunt Myra is, or how poor you are, you must ask God for your daily bread; that is, for those things you need to save yourself. That's prayer."

"But God knows what I need without my asking for it."

"Surely. But you don't pray to God to inform Him; rather to acknowledge your dependence on Him. Prayer is the best way of telling Him that."

"Does God need my prayers? They don't add a thing to His greatness. If they don't, they're useless. Then why should I be forced to do anything useless?"

"No, God doesn't need your prayers or mine for Himself. But He does need our prayers in this sense: He can't exempt us from telling Him how much we need His help. God didn't have to create us. But because He did create, He can't excuse any rational creature from paying Him homage.

"God gives you every minute of the day, everything you have or hope to have. Is it too much of a burden to persuade you to kneel in the chapel ten minutes each day, making acts of faith, hope, love and contrition, in the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament?"

"Human nature needs discipline to hold it in check. Ease, luxury, soft living never were and never will be a school of moral progress. The greatest religious orders flourished because of strict discipline."

"But who wants to be a monk?"

"Or a monkey...eh, Joe?"