

Telegram: Bud Fox, ex-'37
died sleeping. Please re-
quest prayers of students.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
September 20, 1938

Mission Mass Wed. for
the next-to-die. For
Judge Cain, Thursday.

Spiritual Childhood.

During the Mission you are learning all over again the great truths of life, the extent of God's love first in creating you, then in redeeming you even by way of the Holy Cross. You see perhaps more clearly than ever before your utter dependence on Him; you see good reason not to walk about as though you, of yourself, were anything, but to practice humility. That means being a child with respect to God.

When the disciples disputed who should occupy the first place in Christ's Kingdom, Our Lord answered by calling a child and setting him in the midst of them. And He said: "Unless you be converted and become as little children you shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

All of us revere the memories of our earliest days, when innocence filled us with peace and contentment. Ever since, consciously or unconsciously, we have been striving to retain or regain the spirit of those blessed days. But increasing knowledge, strengthening passions, power of will have wrought in us continual change.

Prodigal sons, Mary Magdalenes and even the ordinary run of sinners all lose at some time and in varying degree their spiritual treasure. Only rare saints never lose the grace of spiritual childhood.

Our Lord does not mean that in becoming again as little children we should or can adopt the puerilities of childhood. Growth is the law of being. Nor does He mean that by being converted we will taste only the sweetness of childhood and have none of the sufferings of mature lives. Rather this process of changing our lives, of being converted, is usually accompanied by much suffering. Suffering borne in atonement for sin is necessary to burn out "the old man of the flesh" and to effect the spiritual rejuvenation.

Such suffering is a wonder-working surgery. The more vividly we live and love, the more we must suffer, but the more also we enjoy. Pain and joy are proof that we are spiritually alive. Christ Himself grew to manhood; He loved and suffered surpassing human understanding; but He remained throughout His life the "Lamb of God" or as a little child, humble, innocent, pure.

Every Christmas, under the spell of the Babe of Bethlehem, the drab and commonplace world takes on transcending beauty. It is because Christians, both young and old, become in spirit somewhat as little children. If men only lived this spiritual childhood every day of the year, there would be no shadows and deceits, no feverish hurry and worry, less noise and discord all over the world.

Do you want to know the sublime but simple gauge of spiritual living? It is a childlike spirit in which to live our lives and perform our duties; a childlike humility and purity; a childlike trust in God as the loving Father and acceptance of whatever out of His Providence He bestows on us; a childlike gentleness, guilelessness, and simplicity; in short, a childhood of spirit in all things, for all ages and states of life.

Live and die as a Child of God. Then, one day you will be great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Recitative Mass.

Every weekday morning at 7:15 Father Marr celebrates his Mass in Alumni Hall Chapel. It is a recitative Mass: those who assist at it follow the prayers in union with the priest, out loud. Father Marr cordially invites all who are interested.

PRAYERS: Ill, Rev. Louis Hammer, Mendon, Mich.; father of Bill McDonald (Cav.); Rob't McGarrier (graduate); Harold Ellithorne (appendectomy; Off-campus). Three spec.ints.