

PRAYERS: Ill, uncle of
Walter Murphy ('31);
sister-in-law of Tom.....

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 15, 1933.

...Hammond; (accident) sis-
ter of Bill Clifford '38.
Five special intentions..

The Saints of Notre Dame.

Christ came to call not the just but sinners to penance. Only souls sick with the disease of sin and imperfection need the Divine Physician. This is a teaching of Catholic theology.

Read the barometer of Holy Communion week after week. But please note that it now indicates an unusually high degree of holiness among the present Sophomore class. It seems they are the HOLY MEN of Notre Dame, the JUST MEN who need not penance. Therefore they no longer need Christ. Not for them the humble prayer of the Publican, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner."

What a marvelous regeneration took place in the Sophomore souls between June and September. Last year their record in Holy Communion was enviable. With youthful enthusiasm they threw themselves out of bed early each morning to be on time for Mass and Communion.

But this year already the youthful ascetics have reached such a high stage of perfection that even the Seniors envy it. The sinners have indeed been justified. These canonized saints no longer need Christ.

For them, this life is no problem. Its mysteries have been probed, solved. For the Sophomores there is only one failure in life and that is.....not to be a saint.

So thoroughly have they disciplined their minds and wills and bodies that the temptations of our wicked world can't phase them. Wine, women and song? No sir, nothing can pull their necks down from the celestial fog in which they dwell. Their eyes are on the stars where the angels are; not here on earth where we sinners are.

Do our Saints of Notre Dame hold us Publicans in noble scorn, us who stagger and often times fall under the weight of our cross, who yet need Christ and His Bread of Life? One wonders. They do seem rather aloof.

What is this Sophomore secret of holiness? Why should they keep it locked up in the hidden chambers of the heart? The seventy percent who are saints have quickly out-guessed and speedily outrun the thirty percent, and have reached before their time the crown of glory we all strive after. But saints are loyal, especially to their own class. Why don't the canonized Sophomores share with their class-mates this shortcut to sanctity, this Sophomore Way? Why let the thirty percent waste precious time hungering and thirsting for the Bread and Wine of God? Let them pity the disheartened, downtrodden minority who have not yet solved all of life's problems, who still need the attention and care of the Divine Physician. And let them lend the helping hand to all the rest of us who try to elevate minds and hearts to God in prayer, praying for strength not to falter along the Way that leads to Life.

Of course, the Sophomore Saints have made some disciples among Freshmen, Juniors, even Seniors. But what strange omen is this that a Junior, nay Senior, follow the Sophomore Way? There's some excuse for Freshmen who tag along-- they don't know any better.

Yes, Christ came to call not the just but sinners to penance. He came to give us life. And as our perfect friend, He understands the terrible job we have of saving our souls. To help us each morning in Holy Communion He gives us Himself. What more could He do? Without Him all are doomed to eternal disgrace. Without Him no man-- not even a Sophomore-- can be a saint.

With tongue in cheek we Publicans now wonder if the Sophomore Way is the wise way. Of course we may be fools for clinging to Christ. But far better a fool with the wisdom of Christ than a Sophomore Saint with the hallucinations of a phony ascetic.