

Bishop Crowley thanks  
you in behalf of all  
Bengal Missionaries...

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 21, 1938.

for your generosity in  
Church, your soiree  
in Cavanaugh Rec Room.

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"Jitterbug Jam."

For tonight the Bulletin had planned some quiet "Pickings From The Papers," a few comments on last week's news. But after Thursday's thrust and some of the campus comment, it prefers to present the Ave Maria's pointed paragraphs on "A Word To 'Jitterbugs.'"

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"Many of our Catholic young men and women, caught in the frenzy of current dance crazes, might turn their eyes and ears from the mad drummer for a split second, and look over their shoulders for an equally brief period to consider the mind of the Church in regard to contemporary 'jam sessions.'

\* \* \* \*

"Too, let them keep in mind what they learned in their history books in school, namely, that paradoxical truth that the Church has ever been the patron of arts; that the Church looked askance at the Puritans who forbade even legitimate dancing and other sane forms of recreation; that it was the Church that originated and kept alive the Maypole dancing in the villages, when other men termed such a practice 'the work of the devil.' Indeed, in every Catholic country the numerous Feast Days were made conspicuous by folk dancing.

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"Such is the tradition of a Church that has mothered young men and women for centuries and knows eminently well what is proper for their eternal welfare. Fortified by experience and authority and good sense, the Church is turning its broad mind and kindly eyes on the 'jitterbugs' of the hour and soundly condemning them.

\* \* \* \*

"Archbishop Beckman of Dubuque recently asserted: 'A degenerate and demoralized musical system is given a disgusting christening as "swing" and turned loose to gnaw away the moral fibre of our young people.' We permit "jam sessions," "jitter-

bugs," and cannibalistic rhythmic orgies to occupy a place in our social scheme of things, wooing our youth along the primrose path to hell.'

\* \* \* \*

"These forms of dancing ought to be confined to the gymnasium where muscular and physical exhaustion are in order. They are definitely out of place in the ballroom where aesthetic and graceful movements of body follow the noble rhythms of music born of refined tastes rather than the tom-tom fever of the jungles.

\* \* \* \*

"To our Holy Mother, the Church, who has watched her children dance for nineteen hundred years, 'a "jam session" is a debauched and demoralized form of art.' And let it be confessed frankly, our Catholic youth are patrons of the "jam sessions"."

\* \* \* \*

Why this lamentable fact, that "Catholic youth are patrons of 'jam sessions,'" unless it is that they are steeped in the speed, sport, superficiality and sensuality of our age? Are they afraid to be different? To live lives specifically Catholic? This is a question each of you should apply to himself and not shrink from answering honestly.

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Congratulations to the Catholic men of St. Bonaventure's College, New York, who formed Local Unit No. 1 of the Anti-Jitterbug League (or whatever name they gave to it). They prize their Faith above down-beating.

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The Bulletin is surprised any Notre Dame man, even a freshman, would presume to sign himself "President, Notre Dame 'Hot' Club; that any orchestra leader would, on that alone, allow his announcer to give the impression to millions that this Catholic campus approves of the "Jitterbug" craze.

PRAYERS: (deceased) uncle of Father O'Connell. Ill, (operation) Cornelius Bergan. C.S.C. (Lecreau); Bill Schaller (Dillon..apendectomy). Two special intentions.