

Father Bede Michel, OSB  
will sing a requiem Mass  
for his brother, Father...

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
December 9, 1938

Virgil Michel, OSB, to-  
morrow morning at 8:00  
in Sacred Heart Church.

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The Grippers Will Call This Sweet Propaganda.

Day before yesterday penny-postal correspondent said: "We need more heart to heart talks and fewer lectures." Well, tonight the Bulletin grants the request, gives you the talk of a convert-uncle's heart addressed to the heart of a Notre Dame freshman:

I am sure glad you are started and everything is O.K. Yes, it does seem like a dream that you should be enrolled in one of the greatest educational institutions in the world. There is more than education there. You find life in the raw and only he-men can take it, the way they dish it out. I can vouch for the system in our state university. I owe my school and faculty a lot. They gave me all the foundation I needed for a worldly life in a worldly world. But they fell short. Only God's grace bridged me over that six year span. During it I only heard of my Creator when I went to His tabernacle to visit Him.

Yes sir! You get life in the raw. In the simplest analysis, man has two component parts-- a body and a soul. "Our Lady" teaches you how to take care of the necessities of that body, and, what is more important, she teaches you how to care for that immortal soul. She gives you things for which I starved many years. Now that I have the religion of Her Divine Son, I appreciate it more than my profession. (The gentleman is a midwest medical man)..

It has been seven years since I made the laymen's retreat. Every summer I have wanted to return but couldn't. When I was there, I absorbed a lot of that mysterious something that penetrates every nook of the campus. If you play the game right, you will feel it. It will become such a part of you that your eyes will well over when that last senior class is over and you have to walk out abruptly into a rough-shod world that is waiting to give you a kick-- not up but down. As the world-made bruises start to accumulate, you will reach backward many times to grab a little support from the Golden Dome and Our Lady and the things she taught you. Three days were all I had there, but my chapel and my Grotto are living things before me. They remind me of the time I fell in love. True, I was infatuated with Our Lady for months before I made the retreat, but love does not manifest itself until the one who is infatuated realizes that the object of his infatuation is casting a glance his way. At Notre Dame I found that Our Lady flirted back, and I have been head over heels in love ever since.

So you have started four of the greatest years God will give you. Make the best of them and really fall in love. Whatever your future marriage shall be, get this straight: "marry" Our Lady right now and you'll be the happiest "bigamist" that ever lived.

I had no intention to write a sermon. I used to shudder at the ones my Mother wrote me. But every day that her grave gets colder, I wish more and more that I could hear her say, "Son, think twice: then do what is right." If I get boresome, it is only because I am proud of you, and I want to become more proud in the future. You know Bob had me put on the mailing list for the Bulletin and I watch those Communion figures by halls. I'll have my eyes on your hall and when I see it has late sleepers, I'll say, "I wonder if Jack was one of them."

More of this tomorrow. Meantime, let it sink in. This convert-uncle is a man who knows the value of his Faith and the advantages of a Catholic education. They are things your parents are sacrificing so much to give you. MAKE THAT NOVENA FOR SURE!

PRAYERS: (deceased) mother of Dan Sullivan (St. Eds.); Sister M. Hildegarde, cousin of Fr. Schumacker, C.S.C.; cousin of Jerry Donovan (Dil.); Miss Elizabeth Lyons. Ill, father of C. Bader '19; father of J. Tiedeman (Bro.); Fred Petersen (Zahm); (critically) uncle of Juan Batista (Zahm); aunt of Bill Brinker (Mor.) Seven special ints.