

Mass, Sat., Dillon, 7:20
father of Stan Sheeran
(O.C.) request of Faculty...

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 31, 1939

and the graduate students
of Chemistry Department..

Stabat Mater.

At the Cross her station keep-
ing,
Stood the mournful Mother weep-
ing,
Close to Jesus to the last.

Through her heart His sorrow
sharing,
All His bitter anguish bear-
ing,
Now at length the sword has
passed.

Oh, how sad and sore dis-
tressed,
Was that Mother highly blessed
Of the sole-begotten One.

Christ above in torments
hangs;
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying glorious Son.

Is there one who would not
weep,
Whelmed in miseries so deep
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold?

Bruised, derided, cursed, de-
filed,
She beheld her tender Child,
All with blood-stained scourges
rent.

For the sins of His own nation
Saw Him hang in desolation,
Till His spirit forth He sent.

O thou Mother! fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above
Make my heart with thine accord.

Make me feel as thou hast felt,
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ, My
Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS: (deceased) sister of Mae Carroll; friend of Denny Dineen (Alumni); John Dickin-
son (Bellefontaine, C.); Raymond Cook; friend of Joe Palmer (Cav.). Ill, mother of Luke
Kelly '35; sister of Rev. Joseph Corcoran, C.S.C.; grandmother of Frank Ciolino (Dil.);
friend of Al Ferrine (Badin); mother of Joe Doyle (Fr.); father of Bob Richardson (St.E.
cousin of Geo. Landry (How.); mother of Charles Walter '33. Four special intentions.

Why Did She Stand?

At the foot of the Cross Mary stands. The day is
bleak. The sun is hid. Dark clouds lie low.
Heaven presses on the brink of Calvary. Mary is
alone with Christ and Magdalene and John. A few
miles off, on the knotted branch of a wayside
tree, Judas has already hanged his wretched head.
Peter and the others have made their flight.

But there stands by the Cross of Jesus His Mother.
What strength in Our Lady! What a test of faith!
What earthly reason should encourage her now to
stand by the Cross? If her Son is God, why should
He die on a cross? Can God play the lead in a
tragedy? What can one find at the foot of a cross--
but emptiness, failure and desolation?

And still she stands, this Lady of Holy Cross.
Stand also, absolutely unshaken, all her convic-
tions. Not calamity, not death, nay not even the
mangling death of the Cross can tear her from the
certainties of the past. For this day was she
born. All her life, in her heart, she has pon-
dered God's plan. Can faith and hope and love
fail her now? As well ask, can God cease to be?

Slowly Our Lady of Holy Cross raises her sorrow-
ful face. She meets the pitiful, pitying glance
of her Son. They talk the understanding language
of eyes. They can only suffer and love. . . Yet,
stricken with grief and compassion, Mary is calm
in divine content. . . She remembers. . .

She remembers the wine at Cana. She remembers
Jairus's daughter and the son of the widow of
Naim. She remembers the stinking corpse of the
Magdalene's brother. She remembers . . . no, she
feels the fiery edge of Simeon's sword . . . the
nails that pierce Christ dig into her own most
exquisite flesh. She is dying. She dies a mys-
tical death in union with Jesus.

. . . The Redemption is nearing completion. She
still stands. How? Why? The raucous rabble
savagely cries: "If Thou be the Son of God, come
down from the Cross!" And Christ comes down! down
to enlighten and strengthen His Mother. Bright
beams from the Light of the world flood into her
anguished soul. She understands. And power leaps
from the Wounds of God. That is why, at the foot
of the Cross, Mary stands.