Pay a visit to Father Wenninger tonight in the University parlors.

University of Notre Dame RELIGIOUS BULLETIN February 13, 1940

(Concussion) Gus Dorais, University of Detroit coach, team-mate of Rockne.

True to His Very Last Rubric



REV. FRANCIS T. WENNINGER. C.S.C.

You may have thought that you knew "the Dean," but you probably didn't. You thought he was gruff. That was only his front to scare some sense into senseless, irresponsible freshmen. There must be no fooling in the College of Science.

You thought he was too stern and exacting. That was his game. Tucked beneath his broad chest beat a stout, kind heart as big as the man. Yesterday morning, less than an hour before he dropped dead in his "home," the Biology Building, he had stopped off for a bite to eat in the Corby kitchen. "Father, get back to bed," said the cook. But Father replied, "No. I want to get over to see my boys."

You were his interests. Still, he preferred to "enjoy his storms" than to tell you that. He figured that the easier, popular technique of falling all over you could never produce science students who could stand the gaff—men of hardy academic and moral discipline. He felt that without his so-called merciless method one of the most distinguished student groups on the campus could not have been born. Now the Academy of Science stands grateful guard at his bier.

He was never known, not once, to refuse what was best for you. But he was like a rock; and most assuredly so if you flunked out of science and then had the nerve to ask him to fix it. Steam and spout as you might, your grades stayed the same. But you learned a life-long lesson in principles.

You thought him relentless and relentless he was like Louis Pasteur and Madame Curic and our own Father Nieuw-land who invented Duprene. What true scientist yet has discovered any worthwhile fruit save by the endless toil of planting, cultivating, dunging, pruning, plucking and planting as over again and again?

Father Wenninger was more than an efficient teacher and bean of Science. He was a solid good man and a zealous, generous-hearted priest. Venerable Mr. Dan Hanley will tell you of his love for the Mass. Backwards and forwards he knew the liturgical rubries, knew them so well that for years he was the University's Master of Ceremonies. Always he had a convert or two on the side for instructions. And his preaching was vigorous, dogmatic, concise and convincing. Only last week, despite the pressure of work and his increasing III health, he agreed to talk, April coming, on "Religious Indifference," One extra-curriculum lecture downtown or beyond followed after another. Deep was his devotion to Mary, for back in his earliest chibihood in Austria his good eartily mother had consecrated his life to the Virgin-Mother. That is why he so often "fought" for the more selemn observance of Our Lady's feasts.

"April coming. . . ." Like all men who have shed before him. Father Weaminger taught the last trite lesson we shall all have to teach to a vanishing world. Exactly one week ago tway he smeared the foreheads of hundreds of you with sacramental ashes. Now he is dust. Last Sunday at seven o'clock, Mass was offered for Bill Madel; then at ten, for other next-to-die." In less than twenty-four hours "the next-to-ob" was he.

Tomorrow at nine in Sacred Heart Church Bishop O'Hara will postificate at Father Wenninger's Requiem. Be there. An hour later he will be lowered into a simple, community grave. Follow the line. But first, out of charity and devotion to one who respected your highest good, offer Mass and Holy Consumon for him in your esses hall chapel. May be not in peace?

PRAYERS (Deceased) father of Bob Bearmont (Morr); nother of Mr. Grenier, S.J.; Mr. Mary Lynch, friend of Frank Guindon (Wal); aunt of Vern Brinck (BP); Mr. Lentz (Chr); Father Paul of the Atonement Friars (Garrison, N.Y.); (Ill.) friend of "Truck" Crane (Wal); grandmother of Vernon Van Eppes, C.P.S.; friend of Lou Reis (Z); cousin of Bill Clark (Car); Mrs. Edward Schaefer and Alice Lon. Habermann (Cleve); cousin of Jim Spellman (Corby); friend of Dick O'Brien (Z); mother of Lou Majern (Ly); friend of Bill Crowley (Dil); Mrs. Loretta Dennison (Chr); father of Maurice Henault (Bad); brother of Ed Voorde (OC); Gerry Milano (Bro); parents of Archie Strang (Cav); mother of Peter Alonzi (Wal); sister of Bob Crown (Dil); sister peckel intentions.