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rosary, study schedule..... September 30, 1940

...missals, hand in Bulletin intentions here.
(7:25 Mass daily).

To the Men of Brownson, Carroll, Cavanaugh, Zahm, Breen-Phillips, St. Edwards:

On Moral Courage: You c'n puff a cigar through your back teeth, tilt your hat at a snappy angle, cuss like an ol' trooper, swagger like a Bowery bum, and yet be so morally soft that a gnat could shove his paw clean through your midriff. Unless you've moral courage to inflict self-discipline, you simply haven't got the stuff out of which Notre Dame men are made. Moral courage, after all, is not mere physical prowess, nor the ability to act tough, but something far more basic and closer to the spine.

On Vulgarity: There may be some places, universities, in the world, where students have to sit and listen to vulgar, course, dirty talk. But that place is not Notre Dame. Filthy language, suggestive conversation, cannot be tolerated under the shadow of the Golden Dome. Any Notre Dame student who feels that he must painfully put up with such ugle taste has a wish bone where his back bone ought to be.

On Study: O.P.M. (Other People's Money). Most of you are here on it. Your parents laid it on the line for your Catholic education. They have a definite right to a return on their investment. You are guilty of injustice if you are loafing, if you are squandering their money on intoxicants or on other items of which they would not approve, if (most important) you are neglecting the Sacraments, gambling on losing your soul.

On Notre Dame: Most of you will soon catch on to the spirit of Notre Dame, not only of Notre Dame football, but of Notre Dame herself. Notre Dame tries to live the Morning Offering. Her day's work, whether it be football practice or a lecture in Washington Hall, is done for the honor and glory of God and His Blessed Mother. Notre Dame believes in Jesus Christ: our Way, Truth and Life. She believes in the sacredness of womanhood, and places the figure of a Woman, in the modest attire that becomes a Virgin and Mother, on the highest pedestal she can find. Notre Dame believes in God-given authority, whether that authority be vested in parents, in teachers, in Governors of States, or in the Vicar of Christ upon earth. It is her fond hope that she can teach her young men the workability of the principle that it is possible for them to pay tribute to Caesar without losing their souls.

On Holy Communion: During the past few weeks you have enjoyed, perhaps for the first time, the benefits of daily Communion. You are urged to continue the practice throughout the year. At Notre Dame the Eucharist is used as the starting point for a sound, spiritual life. Real Notre Dame men are daily communicants. Without Christ they can do nothing. And they want to be men, men of outstanding Catholic manhood. If the majority of our alumni know the explanation of Notre Dame, it would be a pity if a few of you should miss the point.

On the Mass: Buy a missal and pray the Mass with the priest daily; because you find from experience that of yourself you are pitifully weak to dominate all of your temptations; because there is still a penalty even for your past forgiven sins; because you need help in your intellectual, moral and physical life; because your mother and father and other relatives count on your prayers; and especially because the Mass is Calvary, the most sublime and important act that happens in your day.

On Discipline: Notre Dame uses a spiritual appeal for practically every activity in which you are engaged while here. She asks you to let your conscience dictate an active, intelligent life - every point of it directed Godward. When the spiritual appeal falls on deaf ears, and the matter is of serious moment, she invokes discipline. She must, in virtue of an agreement with your parents, give you a Catholic training... So! When you play the game and lose, why not be a good sport about it? Don't welch. Be prepared to take the consequence of your acts - with a grin. There's nothing personal about the punishment. If you don't "get away with it," take the rap standing up. After all, good sportsmanship is good religion.

In Passing: You are cordially invited to make use of the facilities in Cavanaugh Hall for "Confession, Communion, Consultation" - every morning till 9:00; every evening after supper till 10:00. Drop in for a chat. If anything worries you just state your case.

I sincerely wish you a happy and successful year.

Richard J. Grimm S.S.