

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 27, 1941

From a Daughter of Notre Dame.

This letter from an unidentified girl at a state university may help to increase your appreciation of your Faith and of your parents' providing you with a Catholic college education.

Dear Father:

I would like to write a sequel to your article, "Won't Bill Be Surprised?", of January 23 and entitle it, "Wouldn't the Bulletin Be Surprised?". Perhaps you did not know that girls read your Bulletin, but they do and find it very helpful. This is how it started.

As a Freshman at the University of _____, I found campus life very sterile, if not disgusting, until after my first few letters from home when I discovered that they were typed on the back of a Notre Dame Religious Bulletin. After the first one I made up my mind not to miss another and I didn't. I found myself going to Mass and Communion more frequently - daily during Lent - and rounding up the other sleepy Newmanites. I left the Bulletins for my room-mate (and neighbors) to read, and after a few months she seemed to have a much more favorable attitude towards the Church. But I think that the example of the early-morning pilgrimages to the faraway chapel inspired by the Bulletin gave them more to wonder about, for the modern pagan's comprehension of the supernatural is so dark and difficult that it seems that only example and prayer can begin to touch them.

In time I was no longer confused by my Psychology professor who preached "Adjustment" over and over as the cure to the ills and phobias of modern life, which would mean sinking into one form or another of destructive naturalism. Nor was I confused by the false educators still shielding their little idols of Dewey, Rousseau, and Mann; nor by the raving atheist of a Geology prof. who makes no secret of his disbelief. I was not confused by these because I had found those whom you recently called "the angels", particularly Maritain and Dawson. A friend recommended them to me, but had it not been for my earlier spiritual preparation I fear the Holy Ghost and his great gift of enlightenment would not have been so close to me when I turned those first pages of "Freedom in the Modern World". Maritain fills one with a missionary spirit, but I still have a lot to learn before I can report any successes in this field. However, thanks to you and your little paper, Father, I have willed to make myself part of the Notre Dame spirit, for Our Lady is the Mother of us all, and I am sure she is pleased that her Bulletin is being read by her sons and daughters alike.

May your work always continue, Father,

(signed) A spiritual disciple of Notre Dame.

P. S. Father, your boys cannot begin to imagine the priceless gift that is theirs - being encouraged and offered every facility to share in the life and grace of Christ - unless they enroll in a secular university where they find their religious endeavors sneered and scoffed at continually, or where at the least they are an object of curiosity every time they go to church. This is not nearly so heart-breaking as the realization that these fellow students are really miserable, a fact that no pretense however good can long hide, and that their deadened consciences can no longer tell them why.

God bless Notre Dame.

PRAYERS. Deceased: Grandmother of Fr. J. Trahey, C.S.C.; Grandmother of Pete Alonzi (Sor); Miss L. Markert; Friend of Arthur Starr (Wal); Mother Mary Rose; Uncle of Bob Madden (Ly); John Casey. Ill: Mother of Frs. Thomas and Bernard McAvooy, C.S.C.