

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
May 3, 1941

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From a Soldier.

At the opening of May devotions Wednesday evening, Fr. Carroll exhorted you to make during May a Crusade of prayer for peace and for the world's return to God.

Next morning's mail had the same message in a letter. It was written by a young Catholic soldier to his father and forwarded to the Bulletin. Some may criticize the soldier's English, but not his faith and love of God - nor his thinking. We quote his letter to his father in part:

"Dad, if you could but be with me in the Army you would soon see how insignificant the things of this world are. Only today I was detailed to carry men to bury a poor, unfortunate soldier who was killed on a motorcycle, and I helped dig a grave for the next one to be killed. They always have two or three graves dug ahead of time.

"It is not that I am afraid of death, Dad, or of dead things. What I fear most are living things; men and women and the way that they live. One is so apt to be entangled in their ways of living, causing you to lose sight of the true goal that you were put on this earth to seek. What does anything else matter as long as you save your own soul?

"Oh, when I look around me and see these young men my own age, drifting, wandering like a ship without a rudder. They have no faith; they have no religion. Everything they did possess, little as it might have been in civilian life, is taken away from them. So they will be absolute pagans. What is it all coming to? Why can they not see that there is something radically wrong with civilization? When will they realize that the present plight which they are in is but the result of the ways of their own living? When will they see the light of true faith? Soon now they will come face to face with death. They will be forced to face the solution to their ills, and they'll find they must come back to God.

"Yes, we must go to Him, asking for forgiveness in neglecting Him so. Yes, the very one from whom we have received everything, even our very life, we think of the least. How ungrateful we are, how selfish and self-centered. We take everything and give nothing in return. When all He asks in return is our love, our affection, our glorification and thankfulness. Yes, we must go to Him often..."

To Skeptics.

Some students may question the authenticity of the letter (though a visit to this Office may convince them). Others may not like the letter's message, especially those who need it the most.

It isn't easy for the Bulletin to satisfy 3200 students of different tastes, ages, intellectual and emotional development.

Take, for example, the letter published before Easter from the girl reader of the Bulletin. One senior on his questionnaire, commenting on that letter volunteered: "Don't run letters from outsiders, especially like the recent one from the girl at the state university. They may be true, but sound phony." (The original is still on file for any skeptic.)

Another senior, in the same course incidentally, answering question 13 on his questionnaire: "What incident, example or reading this year has most strengthened your faith?" replied: "The Bulletin of March 27." That Bulletin is the same letter criticized by the senior above!