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The Army Is Fun?

One phase of N.D. spirit is shown in making the best of things, bearing down courageously, smilingly when odds and disappointments are greatest. Many youths facing Army service and chaotic world conditions are going sour. They feel insecure, lose trust in others, view any advice as propaganda and decide to live for their own enjoyment. They seek, true to psychologists' predictions, artificial courage and forgetfulness in sensations - in sensual enjoyment, a Catholic psychiatrist would say. They seek refuge and solace in sappy and excessive recreation, in carousing and things of the flesh. Does carousing produce results? Yes, it pulls one lower and gives not happiness or forgetfulness, but bitterness and emptiness. Living on the senses and for self alone always produces that.

To see the real spirit of Notre Dame functioning, read this from a popular '41 grad:

"Be sure and thank the boys mailing the Scholastic for their trouble and reassure them that it is appreciated. There mail ranks right up there with the box of cookies from home and the letter from the girl...

"I have been serving Mass every morning at the Base Chapel for him at six-thirty, just about the same time the boys are doing the same up there. You get the same feeling too, the feeling that the day is started right, and come what may, you're ready for it. It's straight stuff, too, Father, that after rolling out a little before the other boys here every morning as well as on Sundays, for the purpose of going to Mass, five of the boys that hadn't been working very hard at the practice of their religion, began to do likewise, and last Sunday the five of them went to confession and Communion for the first time, I am sure, in years. Nothing was said between us, but the mere example of someone who "seemed to know what the score was" and wasn't afraid of work and speaking up on other things was doing something they knew to be right, and didn't care who knew it, prompted them to come out of their shells and get "back to work" themselves. It's really fun, Father. I hadn't ever experienced anything quite like that before, but I guess good example to the right persons is worth all the preaching in the world."

"I was up to the Army game last week-end, and what a week-end. I sat on the bench with the team, and really enjoyed every raindrop.

"The Chaplain is leaving for maneuvers after First Friday services and I am left in charge of the class he has begun with boys who wish to learn more of the Catholic Religion. He hopes to get many converts out of the group, and I hope that I don't send them all away in utter disgust while he is gone. So all in all, I am pretty happy here. It isn't the wild slipshoddy way I tore around the N. D. campus, but I am surprising myself in the little, but vital things that I can do. It's real fun."

How To Start The Day Right.

In the Mass Christ, Our elder Brother as Head of the Mystical Body, offers Himself and His Cross to His Father. The Mass is a social act and He wants us to join with Him in His sacrifice. Offer up ourselves, our crosses and difficulties, and we get back grace and strength, even the God-man Himself in Communion.

Sacrifice doesn't mean something disagreeable, cutting, as with a knife. It means (sacrum-facere) making sacred. Offer up your day to and with Christ at Mass and in return you likewise will "GET THE SAME FEELING TOO, THE FEELING THAT THE DAY IS STARTED RIGHT AND COME WHAT MAY YOU'RE READY FOR IT" - and why not? You're ready for it with Christ.

PRAYERS: (deceased) grandfather of Mike Kelly (Wal.); Rev. Anthony Finnerty; mother of Rev. Charles Karnasiewicz (New Briton) '36; father of Rev. F. J. Ballinger. Ill, father of Bro. Leander C.S.C.; operation, mother of Ken Royhans (Sor.); uncle of Rev. J. P. Lynch C.S.C. Four special intentions.