University of Notre Dame Religious Bulletin July 30, 1942

Help the Poor Souls.

Saturday noon on the way to the dining hall you will hear the big bell in the church boom. This bell will announce the opening of the period in which you may gain a plenary indulgence for a Poor Soul on each visit to the church. The period closes Sunday midnight. You must say 6 Our Fathers, 6 Hail Marys and 6 Glory Be To The Fathers for the intention of the Holy Father on each visit. Recent confession is a required condition. Go tonight.

Prayers.

Andy Chlebeck was called home yesterday morning on account of the death of his sister. The father of Len Arnold of Breen-Phillips is seriously ill. John Leibin of Zahm last semester was operated on at home recently. Reggie Flynn (Sor) asks prayers for Joseph Moore and a priest, both deceased.

Communion In A Stable.

An interesting letter has just reached this country telling how the Gestapo unknowingly brought Christ to 400 Slovone priests in a concentration camp. For over two months these priests were housed in the stables of a Trappist monastery. One day fresh "loads" of religious were brought to the camp by the Germans. One of the priests in this group brought with him a handbag and in it were Consecrated Hosts. When the Gestapo had broken into the monastery of the Capuchin Fathers there was no time given them to consume the Hosts in the church. One of the Fathers got into the church, and put the Hosts in his handbag.

"...the news spread through the stables. We have Our Lord in our midst...Is it true? Where? Over there on the wall...in the brown handbag hanging on the wall. And so it was. I went there. Priests moved by in respectful file, bowing as they passed the humble 'taber-nacle'...We dared not be silent; the Gestapo would have noticed it.

"(In the morning) a Jesuit Father prepared a modest altar. We had one sheet among the 400 of us. It served to cover a wooden box. A single electric torch served well for the candles. We had no surplice, no stole. The white civilian clothes of the Jesuit were good instead. . . And then came Holy Communion. One after the other the priests came through the darkness. They received the Sacred Host. Received I say, but with respect and gratitude in their hearts as perhaps never before.

"It was 4:45 when we finished. The guard, when he entered a few minutes later, was most surprised to see us all up and 'dressed.' But it was only just in time. Father Y wanted to give us Holy Communion the following day so he divided the Sacred Hosts. This had delayed him. Another minute and we would have been discovered, and that would have meant sacrilege, beatings, and so on.

"I cannot describe our feelings when the last Sacred Host had been consumed and we had taken our leave of Our Lord. Now we were alone, but not forgotten. His visit left in our hearts fires of love and confidence. We felt strong to face the German orders again. . "