

Novena for Poor Souls
starts Mon. Drop
names in Novena Box.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 29, 1942

Buy war
stamps tonight.

The Story Of A Notre Dame Rosary.

Reverend and Dear Father:-

In the April 1942 Alumnus just received, I read the very interesting article by Rev. Arthur J. Hope, '20, about Father Alexis Granger, C.S.C.. This brought back some recollections of nearly 51 years.

I went to Notre Dame in 1887, in the preparatory school and during 1888 and 1889; finished that, and started on my studies in civil engineering. Financial matters kept me out for a year, and I went back early in November 1891.

I went to confession to Father Granger in the chapel in the basement of the church. He gave me as a penance a decade or so of the rosary. He asked me if I had a rosary and I told him I had lost mine in a fire, which consumed our home two months before. He immediately reached in his pocket and handed me, around the outside of the confessional, a rosary, and told me to keep it with me - always.

Whether he handed me his own rosary or not, I do not know. I always obeyed his injunction to keep the rosary with me.

I went through the Spanish War in Cuba, the World War I in France, and many other tight situations, where an engineer must go, but by day that rosary has been in the left front pocket of my trousers, and by night in the pocket of my pajamas, or under my pillow, when I slept in a bed.

Once, in going across the "Shoe Swamp" (Cienaga Zapata), in Cuba, making an estimate to build a railroad, I passed three days and two nights in the Swamp and in places was mired in the mud so deep the muzzle of the automatic I carried in a shoulder holster was in the mud.

My pockets were all filled with mud, and in cleaning them out, I took out my rosary and washed it in the water of the swamp. I had three Cuban colored boys to carry the hammocks, food, etc., and they were much surprised to see an American take a rosary out of his pocket.

The rosary has had only one broken link in all that time, and I repaired it myself.

The beads have worn down, whether from rubbing together in my pocket, or from natural attrition, due to the fingers in passing the beads along - "God knows."

Half a century is a long time to have one rosary.

However, in remembering in my prayers each day, those whom "We have loved long since and lost awhile", is included Father Granger.

If you have Father Hope's address, please send him the copy of this letter, which I enclose, as it may be of some interest to him, who has written such a beautiful article about a saintly man.

With kindest regards and best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

C. C. FITZGERALD, C.E. '94

PRAYERS: (deceased) aunt of Fr. Geo. Baxter, C.S.C.; grandmother of Fr. Ray Norris, C.S.C. (ill) daughter of Mrs. Luczynski (dying); uncle of Bob Walsh (Car). 1 S. I.