

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
January 27, 1943

The Navy Graduation

We cannot remain indifferent to what takes place tomorrow. Eleven hundred midshipmen will be sworn in as commissioned officers with the rank of Ensign in the U. S. Navy. These young men are leaving Notre Dame. Some will take up further study in specialized work. Others will report to warships of one type or another. Others may be assigned to PT boats, or submarines or convoy vessels. Action lies ahead of these men, and danger.

We cannot just stand-by and watch their final dress parade, and then go back to our rooms and say to our companions: "Well, they're gone".

We are seeing eleven hundred men go off to WAR.

We are seeing hundreds of parents, wives, and friends of these young officers bid good-bye to the young man they love dearly. This is a departing ceremony that will take strength to bear. Behind tomorrow's smiles there will be heavy hearts.

In this group of Ensigns there are Notre Dame men.

Are we going to remain untouched by reality: war, ships, action, danger, death, heart breaks?

Our job is to PRAY.

Not just Thursday, but every day. Our united prayer will hasten peace. But we must unite.

This is a call for the entire campus to rise early tomorrow to gather, to the man, around Christ at Mass and with Him to beseech our Heavenly Father to watch over the souls and bodies of these men who have lived with us for the past four months.

And should we cease to rise for Mass and pray on the days that follow this graduation?

Another former student has been killed in the service: Hershel Horton, Ex '43.

News of the ordeal of a recent graduate has just reached Notre Dame: his ship was sunk on Christmas Day; he was not rescued until January 10. Our prayer is for these men, and for peace. (Particulars later.)

To All The Ensigns - Catholic and Non-Catholic.

In the long hours of service on your ship whenever you "salute the Quarter-deck", may it remind you of the Virgin on the Dome over Notre Dame and your happy though short days here. And may she who is the spiritual mother of all men, Queen of Heaven and Star of the Sea, protect you throughout your service to her beloved country, of which she is the patroness. May she protect you, and bring you safely home after a service of loyalty, honor, and victory!

"Good-bye, good luck, and God bless you all" - from the priests, brothers, professors, and students of Notre Dame.

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Dominic Angelini (Z); Leo Schneider, '28; father of Bro. Ewald; (Ill) friend of Ensign M. F. O'Connell; Ray Zaller, '38; uncle of Bob Welch; Bob Fushelberger, '42; Paul Frank (infantile paralysis). Two Special Intentions.