

Operation: Pvt. Ralph
Scubert (Zahm),
appendectomy

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
September 1, 1943

Friday is First Friday.
Confessions: Sorin and
B-P Chapels. Go TONIGHT.

'One Person, I'll Never Forget...'
Joseph J. Quinn (Editor, Southwest Courier)

"The soldier was tired. Behind him he heard the sound of a car and he waited. The driver, a Jewish business man saw the khaki figure up ahead and slowed down. The soldier looked thin and worn. The driver picked him up, found that he had been near death in the Pacific, was on his way home for a long, long rest. As the miles drifted by in the glare and oven heat, the soldier told of many things. Then he spoke of religion. And this, the Jewish merchant told us, is what the Protestant boy said:

'It was pretty bad out there in those hell-holes. Those Japs kept us on edge all the time, sniping and killing. My buddies kept going one by one. But there is one person I'll never forget as long as I live. It was that Catholic chaplain. He'd run out when a man fell, bend over him and drag him back. We never saw any other chaplains around where the bullets were hitting. Just that Catholic priest standing up real straight, or bent over listening at men's breasts. I don't know what he said to those dying men; all I know is that he didn't seem to realize that he could be cut down like the others. Then I got it in the side. When I awoke, he was there. I can't forget that look in his eyes. His lips were moving, but I couldn't hear him. They they pulled me back out of the swamps.

'When I was in the hospital and heard guns, I always thought of that Catholic priest. I knew he was out there helping my buddies. He did something to me inside. When I saw him working hard under fire giving his religion, I decided his must be worth getting. And that's what I'm going to do when I get back home in Ada.'

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Mother Church is making great sacrifices to see that Her sons and daughters in the Armed Forces of the country have the consolation of a priest. Already there are 3,300 Catholic priests working with the men and women in the U.S. Uniform.

Remember the service the chaplain offers, and appreciate it. He gives to his men "that which is worth getting"; Consolation to the dying, forgiveness to sinners, fortitude to the discouraged, the Word of God which always gives warmth to the heart and purity to one's intention. Take away the chaplain and what is left: no Mass at which a fighting man can run to Christ and have Him pray for him and with him, no Holy Communion in which Christ comes to revive a weak soul and to enliven it in the practice of all the virtues, no Sacrament of Penance through which Christ again and again forgives the sinner, giving him the assurance in time of peace, and especially in time of danger, that all is well with God.

A chaplain cannot do his work single-handed. He needs the full cooperation of every Catholic in his flock. He seldom seeks help for himself; it's always for his men, for the good of the camp. When a Service Man helps the chaplain he helps Christ. By good example he makes it easier for Christ through the chaplain and apostolic men to draw sinners to repentance and to peace of heart. By prayer he brings an abundance of blessings to himself and to the men stationed with him.

Notre Dame dedicates this First Friday to all 3,300 Catholic chaplains, particularly the Notre Dame priests serving as commissioned chaplains. Keep the fast, and when you hear the church bell Friday at five-to-five start heading towards your hall chapel and pick up all your friends on the way. Your Mass on First Friday will assist some chaplain in saving a soul.

MISSING IN ACTION: Sgt. Wm. Murphy, '33, Staff Sergeant, Radio Gunner in B 17 Bomber. Missing after mission over France.