

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

Feb. is Catholic Press
month. Feb. 2, feast of
Purification; 3rd, St. Blase.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 26, 1944

Critically Ill: grand-
father of Dick Kayser
of St. Eds.

Shortly before he was killed in action December 2, Ensign James Hackner, '42 of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, sent a letter to his father. A parent has every right to be proud of a son whose heart prompted him to write this forceful message.

"Dear Dad,

November 11, 1943

"It has been quite some time since my last letter, Dad, just one of those things I may not explain. Twenty-five years ago today, almost to this very hour, you received word that World War I was brought to a close and you tossed away a rifle, went home, married a lady who later became my mother.

"You both told me I squawked and bawled, and sometimes now I have my moments because no matter how tough a man may become because of circumstances, he's still a baby. Today, on Nov. 11, 1943, it's that same old story. This time it's that squawky kid, wearing a uniform, far away from his people and there is no peace today.

"The kid went to Mass and Communion today, a short time ago. The kid is strong and healthy, but the kid would like to come home. He hears all sorts of rumors, scuttlebutt in his language, but his father gave him the best of educations so he weighs them. He refers to current stories of the Vatican. He knows, not so much about military and naval tactics, but he knows man cannot fool with his Creator's temples and not have the just hand of the Almighty swing a wicked left. The kid is learning today, saving it for tomorrow and all his hopes are based on Faith, without that nothing would seem worthwhile, Your loving son."

Faith makes a difference, if one thinks and lives according to the Truths which it teaches. Within a few hours after Ensign Hackner's letter reached the desk of the Prefect of Religion, a newspaper account of the death of a physician in San Francisco was brought to his attention. It was a case of suicide. The doctor was the daughter of a widely known family. She was found with her head submerged in a bathtub full of water. A revealing note was found in the girl's apartment: "I am disgusted with everything". This young professional woman, she was only twenty-nine, had everything in the natural order to bring her happiness. She was young, intelligent, university trained, a member of a prominent family. Unless one possesses Faith and lives it, the trials and problems of life have no meaning and life becomes a burden too heavy to carry.

How often have you thanked God for giving you the Catholic Faith? A man who has Faith believes that there is a Heaven, that God is merciful and forgives sins, that the patient suffering of the disappointments and sorrows of this life on earth will not go unrewarded. And so with a life "based on Faith" young men face the horrors of war knowing that this life is not the end of everything, and confident that in time he will meet his friends and loved ones in heaven where all will be peace and happiness. The light of Faith can become very dim. In some cases the light goes out entirely. Don't wait until you are in a tight spot to appreciate the gift God has given you.

Another War Casualty.

Lieutenant John Powers, '41, of Ingalls, Indiana, died January 4th in India. Details of his death have not been disclosed. His mother and wife will appreciate your prayers. He left a baby daughter he had never seen.

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Father Mathis, C.S.C., mother of Brother Joseph Walter, C.S.C.; father of Father Chas. Young, C.S.C.; nephew of Father Patrick Haggerty, C.S.C.