

Let nothing stop you  
from receiving Holy  
Communion for your . . .

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
May 12, 1944

mother on Sunday, Mother's  
Day. Are you in sin?

A Girl's Tribute To Her Johnny.

Somewhere in the heart of bomb-pocked Europe another Notre Dame man is missing in action. The news comes from the pilot's fiancée. Her letter gives you a picture of two young hearts truly Catholic in ideals. Could your girl say as much in praise of you? For obvious reasons identities are not mentioned.

"Since Johnny was a student in engineering at Notre Dame at the time he enlisted in February '43, and has every intention of returning there to finish his course, I know he would appreciate the prayers of you and the students for his safety. In his last letter, which he wrote the night before he went on the Palm Sunday raid in which he was lost, he told of his 'last wonderful year' at school -- as he often did. 'Of all things to have happen to a veteran combat man, I got a lump in my throat just because I heard some nondescript band tearing into the Victory March. When things get kinda tough I like to remember all that, and how lucky I was to be there -- even for that long.'

"There's a certain satisfaction in being Johnny's girl -- and so, a Notre Dame man's girl. The distance between just sort of melts. How can people think that often maligned phrase "missing in action" so frightening? He had enough physical strength to fill out the biggest T-shirt on the campus, and he didn't check his chain and medal of the Blessed Mother with his civilian clothes. To me, that's adequate armor. If he was killed -- no one was better prepared to die. Oh, he could sing as discordantly into his beer as the next fellow on occasion, smoked his pipe, and argued over football -- but when you're as big as Johnny you don't have to be ashamed to be good. You take it for granted your girl had rather take in the Grotto than try to beat the mob to Rosie's. And that you don't automatically have to try to kiss her up because the music is mellow and the taxi is dark. When you're like Johnny, you write and talk about God as casually, as familiarly, as of your roommate.

"It's a little difficult to say all this without risking its sounding very trite. I guess maybe it's a little unconventional to get starry-eyed over religion, and I wouldn't even pretend to lay claim to halo and harp, but when I see how men can learn to wear their Catholic faith like a T-shirt, and not a straight jacket, it seems that everyone should know about it. If they only knew, then being "lost in action" wouldn't mean what it does to so many -- it'd be just the same as writing them while they're away, only with God as the postman, sorta. Don't you think so, Father?

"I know Johnny will be very grateful for your prayers. He said several times that he could feel that someone was praying him into base -- and this time it's a harder trip than usual. And a long one -- from somewhere in Europe to Notre Dame, with out prayers saying "Godspeed" all the way. When I see him again I'll know how much I appreciate all it takes to get him back. Until then.....Sincerely"

PRAYERS: (Missing in Action) Lieut. John E. Walsh, Jr., '39, over Germany. (deceased) father of Sgt. John Luthringer, '42; mother of David, '40 and Melven, '42 Gelber. (Ill) Brother Aloysius, C.S.C.; Sister Rita, C.S.C., hospital; friend of Bob Henault (BP)

WEEKDAY COMMUNION IN DILLON FOR SERVICEMEN AFTER 5:00 MASS UNTIL 6:15 PM. MASS. LATE MASS FOR CIVILIANS IN SORIN CHAPEL AT 7:20 A.M. DAILY. HOLY COMMUNION IS DISTRIBUTED UNTIL NOON IN SORIN.