

Your best prayers,
the Mass. Are you
using it?

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
August 22, 1944

Late Mass in Sorin
daily at 7:20. Out in
time for 1st class.

D-Day Casualty

At the end of last semester, Jim Dougherty was transferred from the V-12 unit at Notre Dame to the Naval Hospital at Portsmouth, Va. Jim writes from his new station about a Notre Dame man who needs your prayers. In one of his paragraphs he gives you an example of the good a wideawake Catholic can do in the Service.

"I have been sent down here for temporary duty pending assignment to a Medical School. I have been assigned to the sick officers ward. The U.S.S. Refuge, the first Naval Hospital Ship to bring naval casualties on D-Day back to the U.S., arrived here last Sunday. I was helping the injured officers to get settled and adjusted in bed. In one room I noticed a ring with a blue stone and the golden dome on it. Naturally I asked the patient if he was from N.D. and he said his name was Lieut. Urban L. Kokenge, '41, and that he would give anything to be back there.

"His landing craft was blown up by a mine as it approached the beach on D-Day. He received two broken legs and a broken elbow. His right leg is paralyzed and gangrene is setting in. The doctor has told him twice that he was going to amputate, but the Lieutenant claims his strong devotion to Mary has prevented this, and now it may be prevented altogether. I gave him a Notre Dame Prayerbook, and there were smiles all over his face. He said he wished he could have carried one with him into action, but as it was he had only his rosaries. He is in high spirits despite his handicaps, and has that old N.D. fight though on his back.

"The boys down here, especially in my barrack, are 50 percent Catholic. But many of this group are on the border line. I get talking to them and find out how much interested they are in N.D. football; then after a while I bring out one of those N.D. Prayerbooks you sent me, with the prayer of Consecration to our Blessed Lady slipped inside the cover, and tell them the team always used this book to pray from before the games. Then I tell them how all the fellows on the team receive Communion and hear Mass before the game. I think it has helped a few fellows to think more seriously about their soul. Quite a few of them read the Prayerbook every night, and I think I can get others to start."

(Lieutenant Urban is from Miami, Florida. The students from Miami may want to write to him. His present address is U.S. Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland.)

The Catholic Spirit.

The wife of a Notre Dame graduate writes a note of thanks for the prayers offered for her father who died recently. How would you have acted in the emergency in which she found herself?

"Your thoughtful letter had meant more to us than any others at this time, and your offer of a Mass and prayers are a great comfort. Mother and I awakened to find dad unconscious. I baptized him because I know he would have wanted to be. Everyone who knew him said he had a thoroughly Catholic mind. Because of the scandal to all who wouldn't understand, we couldn't bury him from the church, so we had a brief service at the house, with the regular Catholic service at the grave. We are accepting it as God's will, and it is interesting to note that many people, seeing how quickly one who appears so healthy can be taken, have profited by our loss by preparing themselves better for death."

PRAYERS: (deceased) Lieut. Dan Sturms, cousin of Ed Politoske (St. Eds); mother of John White; friend of Bill Hamilton (B-P); friend of Jim Wills (Cav).