

"When I am a frequent  
communicant I am clean,  
content, and happy . . .

University of Notre Dame  
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When I'm not, I'm a first  
Lieutenant in Satan's  
worldly army." A Sophomore. \*

In Thanksgiving For Manila Rescue.

Father Jerry Lawyer, '35, with other members of the Congregation of Holy Cross of Notre Dame and Montreal, Canada, was on his way to missionary work in India when the war against Japan began. Refuge was sought in Manilla. Very recently Father Lawyer and his companions were rescued after three years of hardships. The first paragraph of his letter explains the purpose of his writing. The BULLETIN wished to do its part in spreading the knowledge of the goodness of Our Blessed Lady.

(Phillipines) March 5, 1945

Dear Father: Here is something for the Annals. Please give Our Blessed Lady a lot of publicity, so that it will encourage others to greater confidence in her and her Divine Son.

At the Los Banos internment camp things were in a desperate condition. Our starvation diet was reaching its lowest ebb. Daily we were burying the dead from starvation. Normal walking ability was nowhere to be seen. The Japanese were acting queerer than usual. We didn't know what was going to happen.

In the midst of all this uncertainty Bishop Jurgens, Ordinary of the camp, stood up in the chapel on February 10th. Here is the substance of his talk. We are getting near the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. With this feast is associated the rosary. I suggest that we begin a public novena in her honor for our speedy release. Every evening we will recite the rosary and litany before the Blessed Sacrament . . . On February 19th nothing unusual happened, but all were convinced that our prayers had been answered. From the 19th to the 23rd things were worse -- our scanty two meals a day were cut to one (only soup) and it looked very much like the soup would not last another day.

On February 23rd in the morning Our Lady's rosary dropped from the air. Huge strings of beads floating earthward with a blue sky in the background. Yes, there were 150 parachutes -- that would be the full 150 Hail Marys -- coming to our rescue. During the battle with the Japanese we remained flat in the barracks -- between the fire of guns, rifles, machine guns. You could hear the constant murmuring of Hail Marys -- Our Lady's rosary was in action.

Could we have asked for a more speedy release? Within an hour or so, we were out of Japanese hands and on our way to freedom. The manifestations of God's Providence are sometimes mysterious, but we are all certain that His Providence towards us in this regard was through Our Blessed Lady of Lourdes.

All of us are picking up fast. We were quite wobbly when we came here. With good food and care we are gradually picking up. I don't feel like playing a game of baseball yet and I have no desire to walk any faster than necessary.

I haven't regretted my experiences for the past years. I know that I am a better cook, housekeeper, gardener from all the struggles of the past three years; and I know or at least I think that I am a better priest.

I am writing this under difficult circumstances -- tanks and planes going by.  
I just wanted Our Lady to get credit. JERRY LAWYER, C.S.C.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Rev. Geo. E. Gormley, '04 (Milwaukee); mother of Lieut. Robert G. Sanford, '40; father of Gerald Fitzgerald, C.S.C.; Major Joseph Cummins, son of Major General J.M. Cummins, killed in action; Sgt. Wm. Whitley and Lieut. Jack Hugenberg, friends of Julian Mahany (St. Eds); mother of Angela McCormick. 2 Spec.Int.