

Bob Nelson was buried
Wednesday morning
in Joliet, Ill.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin

Live so as to receive
Holy Communion every day.
Bob Hintz (Dil) is better.

January 18, 1946

The Degan Murder.

Policemen have a heart. That's why the Chicago police were perplexed when they discovered the six-year-old Degan child dead and brutally cut to pieces. "Who would tell the mother that her kidnaped daughter had been murdered?" The Degans were Catholic. The authorities sought the services of a Catholic priest feeling that he knew the proper approach.

There is a lesson in the scene that took place in the Degan home. The news account says, "Father Kearney gazed compassionately for a moment, and then asked Mrs. Degan, 'How strong is your Faith?' The mother looked long at the pastor. Finally, she answered, 'Tell me, Father. I Have Faith.'"

Faith for that mother did not mean confidence. Faith meant that "I will see all in the light of what Christ has taught and promised." And so when the sad news was given, Faith told the mother many things: that God had taken her daughter to Heaven, because she had been baptized and had not reached the age of reason; that the separation was only temporary; that one day God would restore the body with all its members and give it - marvelous beauty and enjoyment; that her vocation as mother had been successfully completed, for she had raised a child for Heaven and Eternal Life.

If anything bolstered the Faith of this family it was the funeral Mass. There was Mass, but it was not one of Requiem; there were no black vestments. All was in white. Here there was to be no mourning, no praying for the soul. The child was in Heaven. If there was to be prayer, it was to be to the child, for she was now a saint. The Mass chanted by the priest was the Mass of the Angels. This was Mother Church's way of telling the Degans that their little daughter possessed the joys of Heaven and had joined the angels in singing the praise of God.

Carry the words of St. Augustine in your heart: "If sorrow makes us shed tears, Faith in the promises of God dries them."

How To Make A Convert.

If you want your head knocked off, an almost sure way is to go to Russia and try to live a vigorous Catholic life. Religion hasn't a chance under the soviet regime. Yet one day Russia will be Catholic. We have the solemn word of Our Blessed Mother for that. When Our Lady appeared to the three little children in Fatima, she said, "If my requests are heard Russia will be converted and there will be peace." The request of the Mother of God is that we pray to her Immaculate Heart.

The sword has never made a convert, nor has compelling argument. Only the grace of God. Argument, good example, good literature all pave the way. But it's prayer that finally moves God to give one the light of Faith. So if you want your girl, or your father or mother to become a Catholic (and you should want it), then you must do more than hope. You must pray.

A crusade of prayer for conversions starts today in the United States and elsewhere. Join those who are making the Church Unity Octave, that is, spending eight days in prayer for those outside the True Faith. From January 18 to 25 perform some act of devotion, like Mass and Communion, and the rosary for the conversion of someone. There aren't more conversions because there aren't enough Catholics on their knees.

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Father Joseph Kehoe, C.S.C. Prefect of Discipline; father of Wm (Scoop) Scanlan, '42; sister of Jack Carpenter (Mor); father of Jim Riehle (Badin). (Ill) mother of Al Masters (Wal); grandmother of Bill Thompson (Sor).