

Benediction Saturday at
11:00 A.M.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 3, 1950

Sunday: LENT & PENANCE:
Fr. Henry Bolger preaches at
7 & 9; Fr. Fagan at 8,10:10,
& 11:10.

THE AVIATOR AND THE MAN WITH THE HEART

Back in 1937 there lay in a Hong Kong hospital a young Chinese aviator who had been shot down by the Japs. One of Tojo's bullets, red-hot and death-bearing had penetrated the airman's throat. As the young fighter lay there in the hospital, suffering, bleeding, dying, his wife's sister, a Christian, was storming Heaven for his recovery. The aviator himself, a pagan, didn't know a prayer from a pretzel.

One evening during his days of suffering in the hospital, the aviator saw the figure of a Man come into the room. According to his written testimony, "I noticed his heart, which appeared to be outside the white garment he wore, and there was a bright light, like fire, around it." This Man came over to the bed, made the sign of the Cross on the man's forehead, touched his wounded neck, and suddenly disappeared.

A few days later the Chinese aviator left the hospital---completely cured, with not even a scar showing from his wounded throat. The doctors, pagan and Christians, threw up their hands in bewilderment when asked to explain the cure.

Shortly thereafter the Chinese aviator visited a Church with his Christian sister-in-law. In the vestibule there hung a large painting of the Sacred Heart. The man suddenly stopped in his tracks, gasped amazedly, gestured excitedly toward the picture, and cried out: "That's the Man! That's the Man who appeared to me in the hospital a few days ago."

Who was this Chinese airman? His name was a familiar one in the Chinese Air Corps in the recent war---Colonel Chiang Kee-yen, close friend and fellow-fighter of General Chiang Kai Shek. Today neither Kee-yen nor his wife are pagans. The favor of the Man with the Heart led him and his entire family into the Church.

The wise-acres, the cynics, the intellectual snob and arch-critic mentioned in day before's Bulletin will shrug their shoulders and scoff at this story. So did the wise-acres at Lourdes and Fatima who tabbed the innocent youngsters favored with the visions as psycho-neurotics and stupid visionaries. True, God doesn't bother Himself with the picayunish, challenging "show-me-I'm-from-Missouri" skeptic. Down through the years there have been and always will be Robert Ingersolls who will demand the Almighty to strike them dead were that Almighty a reality. But God doesn't pass out His manifestations of Himself to the scoffer. In time the scoffer knows quite definitely that there is a God.

It takes Faith, Humility, Innocence of life to bring the supernatural from heaven to earth -- as in the case of Therese Neumann, Padre Pio, Bernadette, and the Little Flower of Jesus. But once in a while God does permit the supernatural and divine manifestation to occur as the result of even the simple but honest faith of the Christian sister-in-law of a pagan airman.

LENTEN SUGGESTIONS:

Daily Adoration (8:00 A.M. -- 5:00 P.M.)

Daily Benediction (5:00 P.M.)

Daily Mass: (Late Masses in Dillon & Cavanaugh: 8:10)

Daily Stations of the Cross in private in your own hall chapel

Daily Communion: Till noon at Dillon--till 9:30 at Cavanaugh

Prayers: *ec.: Anniv. of G. Jones (Cav); Grandmother of Tom Feeley (Cav). 1 Thanksgiving; 3 special intentions. Also deceased: David Gramze