

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 11, 1954

Father Joseph Cavanaugh Dies

This morning at 4:30, the Angel of Death again visited the campus, taking with him Father Joseph Cavanaugh, C.S.C., one of the young and promising members of the little family of Notre Dame priests. Only last Friday he had been told by the doctor that his throat ailment was serious. He had been teaching as usual until very recently. The wonder of it is that he was not unduly perturbed; nor did he become panicky at the news. God spared him the affliction of a long illness. And this morning, when you were all sleeping, he went quietly off to God.

As years go, Father Cavanaugh was very young. He was graduated from Notre Dame in 1940, and ordained in 1944. He did post-graduate work at Laval University. (Quebec), and received his Doctorate in 1946. He joined the faculty that same year, and was soon made Head of the Department of Religion. Seniors and Juniors will remember him best as a teacher, and as rector of Morrissey Hall where he manifested a gentle and kind regard for their multiple interests.

When the Bulletin asked prayers for him, a host of sorrowing friends came to the office with the suggestion of a Novena for him -- a Novena in honor of the Poor Souls, because he deserved our finest display of charity. But God in His Divine Providence arranged matters otherwise. For us there is left the task of completing our Novena to the Holy Souls, counting Father Cavanaugh among them, and foremost in our intentions. Surely, our charity should begin at home -- for one of our own.

In the past few days you have had a profound lesson in the fact that Death is no respecter of age; and that it isn't so important how many years you live, but rather how you live them. Father Laskowski was in his middle 40's; Father Cavanaugh was only 37 -- very young when one measures their active years of the priesthood. Much more important than the matter of years on earth is the lesson these two lives teach us -- that we must live every day in the state of grace.

Indeed, if you haven't learned that lesson, you have missed the whole point of a Notre Dame education. Our Lord warned: "Watch and pray; for at what hour you know not, the Son of Man will come" -- to exact an accounting of our stewardship.

Having begun the Novena for the Poor Souls with us, Father Cavanaugh now joins them in begging the charity of our prayers. Be good to him; he deserves a generous remembrance of your best efforts. R.I.P.

Mass In Your Hall This Sunday

Watch the Bulletin Boards for the time of Mass in your halls, this Sunday. This arrangement is made necessary by our effort to provide space in the main church for visitors on football weekends -- especially at the late Masses, 10:15 and 11:15. Courtesy on your part demands that you make way for them. Freshmen have much to learn on this score, apparently. It's never too late to begin cooperating. Start Sunday.

Prayers Requested

Deceased: grandmother of Ray Drexler of Dillon; Brother Dositheus, C.S.C.; father-in-law of John O'Brien, '51; mother of Monsignor Joseph Twomey, '26; cousin of John Rourke of Old College; Mother Mary Agnes, S.S.J.

Ill: Father Fallon of Pittsburgh; Gerald Holland, '25; two children of Edward Voorde, '34 (polio); the mother of a priest; the two Notre Dame students in St. Joseph's hospital, Bob Greene and Marty Kenahan (polio). 3 Special Intentions.

Friday evening at 6:45 -- The Novena to the Sorrowful Mother. Pep Rally follows.