

Tomorrow at 4:45: The  
Holy Hour in Sacred  
Heart Church.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
October 24, 1956  
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Blood Donors still needed.  
See the Prefect of Religion  
in 117 Dillon.

The Bulletin Has A Birthday

Today, October 24, is the 35th anniversary of the Religious Bulletin, which Father John O'Hara, CSC (now Archbishop of Philadelphia) began in 1921, with one issue of seven copies -- one for each of the halls then in operation at the University, and one for off-campus students. The little publication was first entitled "Mission Bulletin"; its initial purpose was to call attention to certain details observed on the first day of the Mission of that year. Other details on succeeding days of the Mission brought other Bulletins.

The mission ended, and so did the Bulletin. But students began to ask for more; and they got them. The present title was adopted, and issues appeared two or three times a week. Then a request was made for regular issues, and this demand was met. Carbon copies remained the rule for three years thereafter; mimeographing began in September, 1924. Even then, copies were furnished for only a limited number of students -- for those who called for their Bulletin at the office of the Prefect of Religion; and for a few friends outside the University who would understand local conditions, and would see in the Bulletin the exaggerated outlines of a caricature.

In October, 1929, the University decided to furnish each student with a copy, and to mail the Bulletin to Alumni and friends who might request it. The number of Off-Campus students was large at that time, and some 800 copies were mailed to this group. The mailing list outside the vicinity began to grow; today it numbers some 1300, including more than 800 schools, in most of which it is posted, or read by students. It goes to nearly every state in the union and to 15 foreign countries. Its mailing, distribution, and the correspondence which it brings, requires the part-time services of eight secretaries.

Why is it read by students? The best answer is that it deals with questions that the students themselves bring in; and it aims to discuss these questions in the plain, direct language of the students themselves. The background of its arguments are the principles of Catholic faith and morals -- and that's a solid background. A recent survey of the campus population reveals that eight out of every ten students read it regularly. Each issue is purposefully brief. The content varies with announcements, pointers, bits of information on matters that concern the daily spiritual life at Notre Dame. It takes approximately five minutes to read and digest the contents of each issue.

Some Freshmen wonder at its contents. Some Sophomores disagree violently. Some Juniors are doubtful about it. Some Seniors concede it has a point. The Alumni agree wholeheartedly, as do most parish priests who count N.D. Alumni among their flocks. While material found in the Bulletin is not to be regarded as an "Edict" from Rome, nevertheless it is intended to betray a leaning toward Christianity.

Father O'Hara confided the task of the Bulletin to the patronage of St. Joseph. With the help of this good saint, we move into the 36th year of publication.

About Last Saturday

"And when the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name  
He writes not that you won or lost, but how you played the game!"  
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PRAYERS REQUESTED - Deceased: father of Martin Torborg. Ill: friend of George Connolly of Dillon; Tom Conley, '31 (operation); Father McCarragher, CSC, and Father Kenna (operations); Father William Moloney, CSC, friend of Jack Kelly of Dillon. 2 special intentions.