

University of Notre Dame
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A Thought For All Juniors

Traffic experts tell us to expect 40,000 automobile fatalities this year. That's a lot of sudden death -- of sudden exits into eternity -- of grief and tears; and a lot of accounting on a moment's notice.

There are two kinds of sudden death: the one beautiful; the other terrible. The sudden death of a good man who has lived close to God is beautiful. It is as if God said: "Come, you have served me long enough; I will give you the reward you have merited."

But the sudden death of a wicked man is hideous. Then we hear God say: "Enough! Your sins have outraged Me long enough. Accept now the long-delayed punishment your sins have deserved."

Would sudden death find you prepared? Nearly every rational being, you know, believes in safety first. Yet many men are willing to gamble with their souls. You'll have to admit they're not so sharp.

For the past 115 years, the University of Notre Dame has been dedicated to the principle: "What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world, if he suffer the loss of his own soul?" And for the past 2000 years the Catholic Church, in obedience to the command of her Divine Founder, has devoted her energies to the teaching of this principle. And this same point is repeated in each class mission with which we begin every scholastic year. It helps to remind us why we are here. It's the basis for every man's education. Muff this one -- well, you've muffed the big one: the whole reason for the existence of Notre Dame, and the pivotal point of your own education.

In large cities a "Safety First" week is set aside once a year to take care of all odds and ends that cause accidents; and to educate people to avoid them. So much for our bodies.

The mission at the beginning of the year is a "Safety First" period to set things aright spiritually. Miss the mission and you'll be flirting with real danger; and that's not being very educated at all.

You came to Notre Dame for a real education. Be sure you get it. You will if you look in on the mission tonight. Indeed, you'll find it a treat listening to Father Joe Barry. And for those who haven't "hit the box" since their return -- they'll find a battery of confessors available in every nook of Sacred Heart Church.

God has graces -- great graces -- which He bestows during the mission. The more sacrifice it costs you, the more grace you merit. Be smart! Start off the year right by getting set spiritually -- just as you do academically. Be a good shepherd, too -- bring a friend along. Come to think of it, there is nothing more invigorating than the role of a good shepherd. If there are any laggards left behind after these class missions, it could very well be the fault of their alleged friends who didn't have the spunk to bring them around.

Remember This, Mac ---

There's a 5:30 a.m. Mass daily in Dillon chapel for those leaving the campus on field trips or business, or for early workers ... That every hall chapel has morning and evening confessions... That Communion is distributed in Howard and Cavanaugh until 9:30 a.m.: and in Dillon at 10-minute intervals throughout the entire morning.

Recently Deceased: wife of Bernard Voll, '17 (trustee); grandmother of Roy and George Miller (O-C). 2 special intentions.