

Adoration on Friday for
Zahn, Farley and Stanford
halls.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 14, 1958

Cassocks and surplices
are available in the side
chapel (Epistle side).

Crank Case No. 1

Query: "Why so much religion forced upon a student? Let's cut out all this compulsory stuff. Leave men to their own initiative, and you'll get religion out of them -- real religion!

-- A 21-Year-Old Man."

Reply: My Dear Boy: When you were still in swaddling clothes, some one had the kindness to force Baptism upon you, insuring your right to Heaven by making you a Child of God. And regardless of the pain, they had doctors give you shots to make you immune to disease. When you were five years old, your mother took matches and knives, and such things, away from you, heedless of your tears and tantrums. Then she forced you to go to school; and the Sisters forced you to learn Catechism, and to attend Mass on Sunday. Later, you came to Notre Dame, and the rector forced you to get up in the morning. And the professors forced you to study because they expected you to be something more than a prize vegetable. And all during these years God forced you to remember Ten tough Commandments, whether you liked them or not.

We are told that at one State school not too far from Notre Dame, 65% of the Catholic students, developing Religion on their own initiative, miss Mass on Sundays; and that 58% of all Catholic students at an Ivy school since the turn of the century have lost their Faith.

And so, if you are lucky (and God takes care of your kind so often), you may be fortunate to marry a good, Catholic motherly-type girl who will force you to keep in touch with your religion. And as soon as you reach the age of reason -- say, about 50 -- you will be glad that she did, and insist that your own children follow the very program you now resent so much.

And it could be that some day -- your last on earth -- when the fever of life is over, and the world is hushed, and your work is done, and Death taps you on the shoulder, and you go up to Judgment -- and the Recording Angel unfolds the record of your days on earth -- then, you might very well be embarrassed at the few Masses, and Communions, and Rosaries, and sacrifices, and good deeds, and other religious activities that make up your sorry account!

And you might, at that terrible moment, be afflicted with a remorse -- remorse for not taking advantage of the wonderful opportunities at Notre Dame especially! Maybe you will, in that hour, chide the good Holy Cross Fathers for their leniency -- they asked you to get up only three mornings a week! Why, you may ask in that hour, why didn't they get you up every day? Why didn't they regiment you three times as much as they did, and so make you rich, and comfortable, and fearless for the hour of Judgment? Oh, but had you only listened to their admonitions to garner an abundance of merit! Certainly, they placed it at your disposal!

Now is the time to look ahead to that day, and prepare for it accordingly. It may not be until that hour, with only Eternity ahead of you, that you will feel proper gratitude for all your benefactors, including the Notre Dame routine!

PRAYERS REQUESTED - Deceased: friend of T. G. Bennett, '56; uncle of Jim Wysocki of Lyons; cousin of John DeFillippie of Pangborn; grandmother of Edwin Silliman of Lyons; friend of Ed Nelson of Morrissey; friend of Walter Sherwin of Morrissey; Harry B. Stillman, '24. Ill: Patrick Henry, '27 (Law); parents of Charles Sincell of Dillon.

Tomorrow -- A Holy Day of Obligation. All Masses in Sacred Heart Church as on Sunday -- plus an afternoon Mass at 5:30. The Mass at 9 is reserved for the ROTC Units.