

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Notre Dame, Ind.




The Feast of Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles in the form of tongues of fire. This event, 50 days after Easter, has been called the "birthday of the Church." It was the first visible manifestation of the dwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Church. "And when the days of Pentecost were drawing to a close, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a violent wind coming, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them parted tongues as of fire, which settled upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts ii, 1-4). The Apostles, together with the Blessed Virgin and disciples, numbering in all about 120 persons, were gathered in the Cenacle, the upper room in Jerusalem where the Last Supper had been held. They had spent the nine days since the Ascension in prayer—the first novena. It was upon them that the Holy Spirit descended, in fulfillment of the promise of Jesus Christ (John xvi, 7).

THIS EVENING

Not so many years ago, Bud Dollard wrote to a friend and attempted to tell him about the spirit of Notre Dame. Among other things, he said: "Notre Dame is the mist rising from the lakes at dawn as the spirit awakens and pushes the mists skyward. It's the whispering 'Amens' from the trees as the priests, young and old, say their morning prayers.....Perhaps its the kind old Brother in Washington Hall, whose eyes have a way of shaking hands when he says 'good evening'.....It might be the shadows, as they drift lazily into the corners in rooms of men whose names are now legend. They're all gone now, but the shadows and fading rays of light are the sparks of time that keep their spirits aglow in the rooms they left long ago.....It might be the thrill of the Angelus at evening, or the face of the statue at the Grotto.....But, whatever it is, you'll leave this school and this earth, knowing and believing that Notre Dame is truly a way of life." (Here's a suggestion. It's a beautiful evening. Have you been to the Grotto yet during this month of May?)

IN YOUR CHARITY

Please pray for the following. Deceased: Uncle of Dick Trujillo of Dillon; Sam Briskin; Matthew J. Joyce; mother of Edward, '37, and Rev. John H. Wilson, C.S.C., '32. Ill: Mother of George Lane of Dillon; mother of Tom Hecomovich of Badin; father of Mrs. Kate Dooley of the Foundation Staff; Joseph Terrance Martin. Three special intentions.



In one of the halls, shortly after the boxes for the St Vincent dePaul Society had been placed in strategic locations, a student placed three sweaters there. Within the hour, the sweaters had disappeared. There's no way of knowing who may have helped himself to them, but it is a sure bet that it isn't his intention to turn them over to the St Vincent de Paul Society. And yet, that was the intention of the original donor.

This incident calls to mind a book entitled 1001 Embezzlers. It's a small book with some pretty big figures. For instance, \$200,000,000 is the figure given for the amount that is lost annually by employers as a result of their employees' dishonesty. And yet only 4.2% are what we would term criminal embezzlers. The typical embezzler is a man who is unable to face any sort of ordinary crisis. He invariably comes off dishonest. He may live with those who are honest. Those around him regard him as being honest. Then, one day an unexpected opportunity or emergency arises. The typical attitude in such a situation is that one is merely borrowing, with the intention of paying back.

Looking more closely at the list of motives which influenced the 1001 embezzlers, we find that 17.6 per cent said it was gambling and/or

drinking brought the downfall. 16.7 per cent claimed accumulation of debts was the cause. For 13.8 per cent bad management of personal affairs was the cause. 10.6 blamed their troubles on women; 8.7 per cent on speculation. The percentages will vary from time to time. But the important thing is that you ask yourself whether you are manifesting any tendencies like this. When that unexpected opportunity or emergency arises will some weakness in your character prevent you from standing up under the temptation or difficulty which others seem successful in overcoming?

In a few days, you'll be taking examinations. For some, they've been known to constitute a crisis. A good grade is badly needed; to get it, there is a temptation to cheat. This is the time for some firm resolutions. Whatever the opportunity you're presented with, be it an opportunity to add to your wardrobe or to your grade, keep in mind that a crack in your character in these circumstances could one day widen into a moral canyon.

Take care that you don't foster any of the causes of dishonesty in your life.

Gene Boorman, csc
Student Chaplain