

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Notre Dame, Ind.

GOD'S MERCY IN CRISIS

President Kennedy's message Monday evening caught some of you up short. Luckily it was like the jolt that comes when the parachute opens, not like the deadly thud of landing without one.

We are, and we have been, living in critical times. But we have adjusted to the ordinary crises with which we've lived since the end of World War II. President Kennedy's ultimatum to the Soviet Union and to Cuba, however, could plunge the world into World War III. If there will be front lines in an atomic war, you as college age men will be there. To most of you this sobering reality has struck home.

The danger is certainly enough to jar us all out of our complacency. Life isn't just football weekends, dances, cocktail parties, a few classes (take them or leave them), campus politics, campus problems. A self-centered world fades into insignificance in the face of the sacrifice we might be called upon to make.

It's unfortunate that it takes a crisis to make some realize their dependence on and their obligation to God. Their high-flying luxury liner has run out of fuel, but the grace of God has become their parachute to safety. The confessionals have been busy; yesterday there was an increase in Mass attendance.

To those for whom the crisis has been a grace: if the crisis does not develop into the calamity of atomic war -- and may God avert such a catastrophe -- don't revert to the life of ease and self-gratification that gnaws away at the nation's moral fiber, drains the strength from the Mystical Body of Christ, and endangers the salvation of your own souls.



Christmas Cards

Since the snow fell last night, this announcement does not seem too untimely.

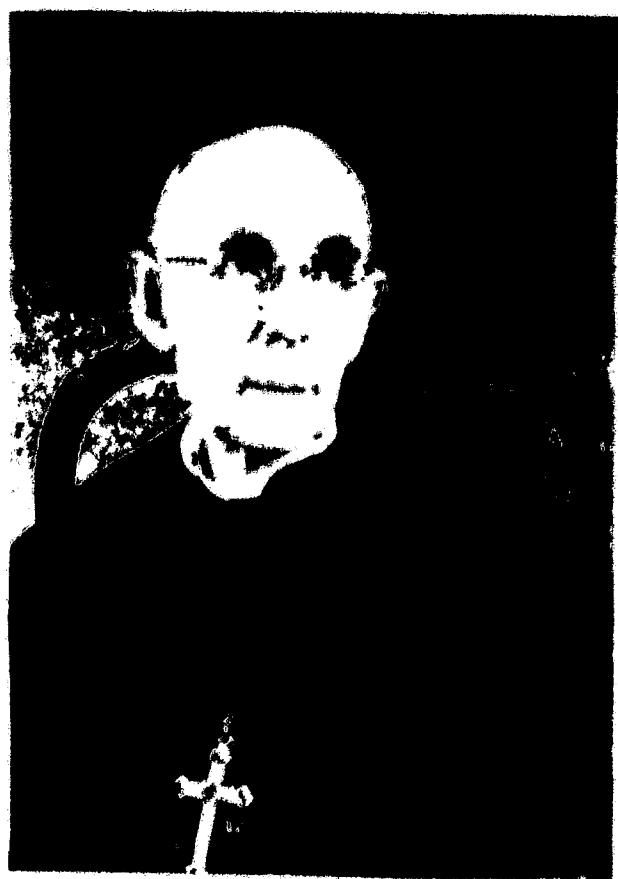
Moreau seminarians have designed Christmas cards which they are selling for the benefit of the missions. They go on sale November 5 in the residence halls. A student in each hall will be appointed as their agent.



In Your Charity

Please pray for the following. Deceased: father of Jim Hayden of Farley; Edmund Meagher, '29, father of Paul Meagher of Lyons; sister of Fr. Joseph Brannigan, C.S.C.; uncle of Edward J. Dwyer of Sorin; uncle of William Wilke of Keenan; Dr. Vernon Hauser, uncle of Jim Gideon of St. Ed's; Rosalie Hallow, friend of Ben Fishburne; Fred J. Boucher, '12; Robert P. Brown, '98; Stephen D. Baker, '58; John G. Byrne, '23. Ill: brother of Ray W. Durst, '26; sister of Marie Cobert, switchboard operator.

THE BULLETIN'S BIRTHDAY



JOHN FRANCIS
CARDINAL O'HARA, C.S.C.

Forty-one years ago today Father O'Hara, Prefect of Religion wrote the first religious bulletin. It was just half a typed page entitled Mission Bulletin. It commented, in Father O'Hara's cryptic, pointed way, on student response to the mission then taking place. On demand, Father O'Hara continued to put out a bulletin after the mission, and during the next twelve years while he was Prefect of Religion the Religious Bulletin made a daily appearance, at first on bulletin boards and later at the door of each student room. Over the years Father O'Hara's bulletin developed an international reputation. Below is a sample which after twenty-nine years still has a timely message.

January 12, 1933

Random Shots.

If a demonstration were needed that off-campus is no place to get a Notre Dame education, the present generation of off-campus students is furnishing it. Their average daily attendance at Holy Communion in the Dillon chapel hasn't reached 10%. Attendance at their 8:00 Mass on Sundays hasn't averaged 30%. Probably 30% haven't seen the inside of the Dillon chapel - which is conducted mainly for their benefit; how many of that 30% have received the Sacraments at all this year is problematical.

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There is something more than superstition in certain old Irish Beliefs. An expression often heard from Irish lips is, "Mark my words - no good will come of it." The usual sins which call forth this comment are the following:

1. Blasphemy (not many Irish are guilty of it - Shaw and Donn Byrne and a few others were never the right kind of Irish).
2. Disrespect to priests and religious.
3. Grave dishonor to one's parents.
4. Missing Mass on Sunday.
5. Eating meat on Friday (the correct Irish instinct regarding this is that you will choke on the meat).

A word about the second point. Another Irish expression is, "God takes care of His own," and it is used principally with regard to the clergy. It is true. Good or bad, God takes care of them - with reward or punishment. Disrespect to the clergy has never brought luck to anyone.

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Gambling is a sin if it involves any of the following points:

1. Disobedience to parents;
2. The risk of expulsion or any other penalty that will bring grief to parents;
3. Extravagance, the failure to pay just debts or to give properly to charity;
4. The risk of contracting a dangerous habit that will later harm one's family;
5. Dissipation of time that belongs to duties;
6. Cheating - or stealing to recoup losses;
7. Cooperation with the sin of another who cannot gamble without sin.

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Praying for help in examinations and then cheating is an infantile form of disrespect to God. Perhaps "infantile" is not the right word; most infants, so far as we have observed them, have straighter minds than that.

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