

Jim

All over the U.S. today,

Notre Dame men ~~and their families~~  
are gathering in the Notre Dame  
way - at the Communion Rail.

They are all one again in the  
deepest of bonds of unity,  
as they receive together the  
same Lord they received so  
often here at Notre Dame. ‡

~~Am sure~~ I can think of no  
better way of characterizing this  
wonderful tenth annual

N. D. Communion Sunday -  
than the stirring words Fr.  
Charles O'Donnell put in

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Month of our Blessed Mother - <sup>to person</sup> -

These are the <sup>boys</sup> men we knew of old  
these are the troops you fed  
I in my mantle of Gold  
You in the Breaking of Bread.

It is a great honor  
to be here today - here at the  
radiant center of the N. D.  
spirit. And I think that  
the St. Joseph's Valley Club  
has struck a note that can  
be well followed by all the  
other Notre Dame Clubs of the  
Nation. Here today, ~~we do not~~  
you have not

Confined your get-together  
 to Notre Dame men, but have  
 broadened it to include  
 Notre Dame families. If there  
 is anything in the world that  
 gives Holy Cross Priests a greater  
 thrill than a raftful of N.D.  
 men it is a world full of  
 N.D. Families. Maybe a  
 little story will bring out what  
 I mean.

Some years ago, Bishop  
 McNamee of Washington was  
 confirming a group of school  
 children. He was explaining  
 to them the meaning of Confirmation.

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becoming  
~~being~~ strong and militant ~~children~~  
Christians - and illustrated  
it by the example of all the  
Christian children who died  
martyr's deaths for Christ during  
the Roman Persecutions." Now what  
are you going to do?" he asked  
the Confirmation class. A little boy  
popped up and said "We  
can't die for Christ, but we'll  
live for Christ."

If we are trying to accom-  
plish anything at N. D., it is  
to train them to live for Christ  
in the modern world. But life  
is not lived in a vacuum.

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If there is any one factor that looms large in the life of most N.D. men it is their marriage & their family. And if there is any one great need in the modern world it is the crying need for good Catholic marriages and staunch <sup>any based on</sup> Catholic families that ~~are~~ <sup>N.D. way</sup> ~~found~~ <sup>found</sup>.

Maybe the world has missed this angle of Notre Dame - You may remember the article <sup>about</sup> <sub>N.D.</sub> in June magazine two years ago. They mentioned many of the fine things N.D. is trying to do with its men. But they,

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sharp as they are missed some-  
thing. Dan Culhane's wife wrote  
in one short sentence to the  
correspondence column Dear Sirs -  
"W.D. also turns out the best finest  
husbands in the world."

Westbrook Pegler had  
something to say about W.D.  
men last week too - and I  
think he <sup>too</sup> missed the ~~main~~ target.  
~~to~~ We'll all agree that we <sup>do</sup> want  
great politicians and great world  
~~to~~ leaders from W.D. - but ~~that~~ they  
hardly constitutes the bulk of our  
mission. We are aiming at an  
~~kind of~~ <sup>overall</sup> greatness that never

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make the headlines or the  
<sup>inner circle</sup>  
~~upper brackets~~ of the Washington  
merry-go-round. ~~and maybe~~  
Let's call it <sup>humble, self-effacing</sup> the greatness of  
Christian fatherhood. — and indirectly,  
the <sup>of</sup> sublime greatness of  
Christian motherhood — for both  
of these greatnesses go together and  
are achieved together.

In the long run, what other  
greatness, in politics, or business,  
or public life is comparable to this.  
~~We may turn out great authors~~  
Suppose, to be fanciful, that H.D.  
did turn out a Shakespeare,  
a Beethoven, a Washington or  
a Lincoln. Their works may

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Captivate the imagination of  
Millions <sup>of people</sup> for decades, and even  
centuries. But the day will  
come, when their works will  
pass into <sup>the</sup> end of time and  
be no more. ~~The day will come~~  
~~come when there will be no~~  
~~more on earth~~ not so  
~~with~~ the work of Christian fathers  
& mothers, for ~~they~~ their work  
is bound up in the giving  
and training of human life -  
life that will never end. A  
million million years from  
today, your work will live  
on in the lives of your children -



Without your marriage -  
 those lives would never have  
 been. Thanks to your marriage -  
 and your ~~lives~~<sup>consecrated</sup> life together  
~~consecrated~~ in Christ - God  
 is being glorified in ~~an~~ an  
 eternal way that would not  
 have been possible without  
 you two men + women of N. D.

What work could be  
 greater than this eternal  
 work - this co-creating of human  
 beings with God - this moulding  
 of eternal souls created for  
 His everlasting honor + glory. And  
 what work is ~~more~~ needed in  
 greater greatness

Our  
the modern world. a few statistics may clarify the need.

P. Popenov of So. Cal. - lest we forget - has estimated that 25% of American Wives have no children, 20% more have one child, 20% more have 2 children. that means roughly that 65 of all American wives have no children, one <sup>child</sup> or two <sup>children</sup> at most. <sup>now</sup> And more than three <sup>children</sup> per marriage are needed to keep Americans in Americans; Late in the <sup>last</sup> nineteenth <sup>century</sup>

Century, America led the divorce rate with 25,000 annually. By 1947 we had increased that number to 620,000 annually - ~~one a~~ <sup>year</sup>

an over-all ~~figure~~ <sup>+</sup> average ~~↓~~  
of one for every three marriages.  
In large cities it worked out one  
for every two. Now how can these  
be good families w/o good marriages.  
On the other hand, Paul Poy-ek.

There is a good statistical  
tie up between these ~~two~~ <sup>American</sup> twin  
evils of divorce and birth prevention-  
hinkoff - a marr. expert from  
Bucknell<sup>U.</sup> estimates that 55%  
of divorces are granted to  
childless couples - 22% to  
marriages with 1 child - 9% to  
marriages with 2 children.  
In all, over 86% of all divorces

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go to marriages with none, 1 or 2 children. So you see it is a vicious circle that bodes no good for our nation -

unfruitful marriages generating selfishness & <sup>which contribute</sup> divorces and the impending shadow of divorce keeps marriages sterile, selfish & unproductive. <sup>ungenerous.</sup>

Of what use would the greatest university in the nation be - ~~if its good were not propagated~~ if it does not have the answer to this #1 American problem - the poisoning of the well spring of national life.

For example,

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We have learned to reverence  
the educational ~~power~~<sup>greatness</sup> of Harvard -  
and yet on an over all survey -  
the Harvard man propagates  
3/4 of 1 child. The people in  
whose - who are listed for  
greatness - yet their families  
average only 1.88 apiece. |

Maybe we should adjust  
our idea of greatness. Should  
not true greatness diffuse itself  
upon a world that needs it, in  
the manner + measure that  
the world needs it.

Your presence here today -

as N.D. families is for us a  
true measure of greatness. We  
pray that more & more, N.D.  
may give greatness like yours  
to the world. - the greatness  
of Christian Fatherhood & Motherhood,  
the greatness of staunch Catholic  
families, the greatness of the  
spirit of Notre Dame spreading  
out in so many new lives  
who will love & lead others to  
love Notre Dame, Our Mother &  
her divine Son.

God bless & keep you all.