

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
Department of Public Information
James E. Murphy, Director

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For release in PM's, Thursday, September 14th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Sept. 14 -- University of Notre Dame students will find fewer disciplinary regulations and a new emphasis on personal responsibility when they return to the campus beginning Saturday, according to an announcement today by Rev. Charles McCarragher, C.S.C., vice president for student affairs.

The structure of student life at Notre Dame has been revised, Father McCarragher said, "so as to provide an atmosphere that will encourage a growth of personal responsibility and increasing maturity in the student." One of the purposes of the new system, he said, is "to achieve a more intimate relationship between the intellectual life of each student and his life in the residence hall."

Regulations governing student life have been reduced and simplified with the result that students will bear a greater degree of personal responsibility in their day-to-day activities and in their spiritual and moral development, Father McCarragher explained. For example, whereas Notre Dame's seventeen residence halls previously had "lights out" at midnight or before, each student will now set his own personal study curfew.

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., Notre Dame president, has sent a letter to all the University's students outlining the new system and the reasoning behind it.

"A few months after graduation each of you will be facing tremendous responsibilities: marriage, military service, graduate school, your first job -- and in all of these, success is spelled in terms of your personal responsibility to meet life's serious demands. Now is the time to achieve this maturity," Father Hesburgh said.

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He stressed that a Notre Dame education is "a total life experience involving every aspect of a student's development: spiritual, intellectual, moral and physical.

"We do not want Notre Dame men to be merely athletes, merely intelligent men without integrity, merely good men without trained intelligence, or merely churchgoers who do not understand the full dimensions of the Christian life. The world already has enough of half-formed men," Father Hesburgh declared.

To implement the new student life system, each of Notre Dame's residence halls will have a priest-rector as before, but he will have a "new kind of autonomy" along with greater authority and responsibility, Father McCarragher explained. Only the most serious disciplinary violations will be referred to the Dean of Students, he said. New impetus will be given to student government in the campus dormitories in the belief that hall government "can serve as an important training ground for student expression and leadership."

A new feature of Notre Dame student life is that each hall will have a resident priest other than the rector who will act as hall chaplain. It will be the chaplain's work to know personally each student in the hall and -- in Father Hesburgh's words -- "to encourage you to improve your average spiritually as well as intellectually." Each hall also will have several Holy Cross priests serving as counselors.

In his letter to Notre Dame's 6,400 students, Father Hesburgh noted that "changes take place in great institutions to secure new values while preserving the cherished traditions of the past. The spirit and character of Notre Dame are a matter of pride to all Notre Dame men and a matter of fame throughout the world. This spirit and character have been the product of an intimacy of Notre Dame life which is fruitfully shared by priests, faculty, and students, all united in the exciting reality of campus, lakes, and towers, and by comradeship in a great and inspiring endeavor. We would hope that this intimacy and this fruitful friendliness will be deepened in the years ahead," Father Hesburgh declared.

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For release in AM's, Sunday, September 17th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Sept. 16 -- The University of Notre Dame begins its 120th academic year Thursday (Sept. 21st) with a record enrollment, a major construction program underway and a refurbished golden dome atop the Administration Building.

Fourteen hundred seventy-five freshmen, representing 750 high schools throughout the country, arrived on the campus today (Saturday) to participate in a five-day orientation program. Upperclassmen will register for classes Tuesday and graduate students Wednesday, swelling the student body to an all-time high of 6,500.

The formal religious opening of the 1961-62 school year will take place September 24th (Sunday) at 11 a.m. when a Solemn Mass will be offered in Sacred Heart Church. Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C., acting president, will be the celebrant, and the sermon will be delivered by Rev. Chester A. Soleta, C.S.C., vice president for academic affairs. The entire University faculty will march in procession to the Gothic church for the rites.

Students returning from summer vacation will inspect the two-acre excavation for the \$8,000,000 Notre Dame Memorial Library under construction on the east side of the campus. The thirteen-story building, scheduled for completion in 1963, will house two million volumes and seat half the University's undergraduates at one time. Nearing completion at the opposite edge of the campus are 108 apartments for married students and their families.

At least two other major construction projects will be underway during the coming school year. Work has just begun on a \$300,000 Student Activities Building, with a distinctive aluminum geodesic dome, which is being erected in the northeast

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sector of the campus. Designed to accommodate up to 3,000 persons for convocations and other major events, it will replace the war-time University Drill Hall which was razed to make way for the new library. And a \$2,200,000 Radiation Laboratory will be built at Notre Dame by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission beginning in December.

Affecting students more immediately will be a revised structure of student life which provides for fewer disciplinary regulations and a new emphasis on personal responsibility. Each of Notre Dame's seventeen residence halls, in addition to a rector, will have a chaplain whose full-time job will be to counsel students in their spiritual and moral development. Carrying out the personal responsibility theme, Notre Dame's traditional "lights out" at midnight or before will be dropped with each student setting his own study curfew.

Two academic developments effective with the new school year are the creation of a department of pre-professional studies in the College of Science and the inauguration of a program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in chemical engineering. Dr. Lawrence Baldinger, associate dean of science, heads the new department which will coordinate the programs and activities of pre-medical, pre-dental and other pre-professional students of the science school.

Three major University posts have new incumbents this fall. They are Rev. Charles McCarragher, C.S.C., vice president for student affairs; Dr. Norman Gay, dean of the College of Engineering; and Dr. Morris Pollard, director of the Lobund Laboratories. Sixty scholars and scientists are newly-appointed to the faculty.

Dominating the entire campus is the statue of the Virgin Mary, "Notre Dame", atop the golden dome. Symbol of the University throughout the world and a landmark for miles around, the dome glistens brighter than ever with new gold leaf applied during the summer months.

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Notre Dame's founder, Rev. Edward Sorin, C.S.C., could hardly have envisioned how his frontier school would become one of the great universities of the nation and the world. But in 1844, just two years after the University was founded, he said:

"When this school, Our Lady's School, shall grow a bit more, I shall raise her aloft so that, without asking, all men shall know why we have succeeded here. To that lovely Lady, raised high on a Dome, a Golden Dome, men may look and find the answer."

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For release in PM's, Monday, September 18th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Sept. 18 -- A Cleveland attorney and two Chicago businessmen have been appointed to Advisory Councils at the University of Notre Dame, according to an announcement today by Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C., acting president.

Roger P. Brennan, of the Cleveland law firm of Jones, Day, Cockley and Reavis, has accepted membership on the Notre Dame Law School Advisory Council. The group will hold its semi-annual meeting on the campus Sept. 29-30.

Named to the Advisory Council of Notre Dame's College of Commerce are Raymond W. Durst, River Forest, Ill., former president of The Hallicrafters Co., and John W. Clarke, head of John W. Clarke and Co., Chicago investment firm. They will attend the next campus meeting of the Commerce Council Oct. 13-14.

Brennan, a native of Indianapolis, Ind., was graduated from Notre Dame's College of Arts and Letters in 1933. He is a former president of the Notre Dame Law Association.

Durst is a 1926 graduate of the College of Commerce and a former member of The Notre Dame Alumni Association's board of directors. Now a business and investment consultant, he is serving as city chairman of Notre Dame's \$18,000,000 Challenge Program in Chicago.

Clarke and Durst are both members of the Chicago President's Committee, a group of business and professional leaders who meet annually with the president of Notre Dame, Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.

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For release in AM's, Thursday, September 28th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Sept. 27 -- The personal papers of the late Thomas F. Mahoney, who promoted the social welfare of migrant Mexican workers in the West, have been acquired by the University of Notre Dame Archives, according to an announcement today by Rev. Thomas T. McAvoy, C.S.C., University archivist.

Mahoney, who died in Longmont, Colorado, in 1957, was a self-educated advocate of labor reform. He was chairman of the Colorado Mexican Welfare Committee of the Knights of Columbus which carried on extensive work among the Mexican beet workers in Colorado and neighboring states. A man of wide interests who took an active part in the improvement of labor conditions, Mahoney corresponded actively with many of the leaders of American labor and contributed frequently to Catholic newspapers. His daughter, Sister M. Marineil, S. L., of Loretto, Kentucky, is preparing a biographical study of her father.

The Notre Dame Archives, formerly known as the Catholic Archives of America, is an important center for the study of the history of the Church in the United States. In addition to serving as a depository for the University's own historic documents, the Archives include the personal papers of priests and laymen which shed light on the growth and development of American Catholicism. Included are the papers of Orestes Brownson, Frederick Kenkel and Frank Walker, former Postmaster General of the United States as well as the diaries of Gen. William T. Sherman and the papers of his family.

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EDITORS: PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE

For release after 6 p.m., Monday, September 25th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Sept. 25 -- The continuing Catholic-Protestant controversy over birth control belongs in the field of theology, not in the domain of politics or civil legislation, according to Rev. John A. O'Brien, research professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame.

"The time has come for citizens of all faiths to unite in an effort to remove this divisive and nettlesome issue from the political and social life of our nation," Father O'Brien believes. He expresses his views in an article, "Let's Take Birth Control Out of Politics," in the new issue of LOOK on sale tomorrow (Tuesday).

Catholics and Protestants, the priest-author observes, differ amicably on many theological matters. But the birth control issue generates "tension, rancor and strife," he writes, "because each side has sought to implement its distinctive theological belief through legislation and thus indirectly force its belief, or at least the practical consequences thereof, upon others."

Father O'Brien notes that contraception, "once universally condemned by all Christian churches and forbidden by the civil law, is now not only approved by the overwhelming majority of Protestant denominations, but also deemed, at certain times, to be a positive religious duty." He contends that "to try to oppose the general religious and moral conviction of such a majority by legislative fiat would be to invite the same breakdown of law and order that was occasioned by the ill-starred Prohibition experiment."

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The birth control issue lies "not in the field of civil legislation, but in the realm of conscience and religion," Father O'Brien insists. "Conscience and religion are concerned with private sin: the civil law is concerned with public crimes. Only confusion, failure and anarchy result when the effort is made to impose upon the civil authority the impossible task of policing private homes to preclude the possibility of sin. Among the chief victims of such an ill-conceived imposition would be religion itself," he argues.

Actually there is substantial agreement among Catholics, Protestants and Jews concerning the overall objectives of family planning, Father O'Brien notes, "but they disagree over the methods to be used. The Roman Catholic Church sanctions only abstention or the rhythm method...(which) involves no frustration of nature's laws, but simply an intelligent and disciplined use of them. With the exception of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches, most churches make no moral distinction between rhythm and mechanical or chemical contraceptives, allowing the couple free choice. Here is a difference in theological belief where there seems little chance of agreement," he writes.

In the LOOK article Father O'Brien urges that medical scientists devote more research to perfecting the rhythm method. "The National Institutes of Health had a budget of \$560 million for 1961," he writes. "If it devoted but one per cent for research to render the rhythm method simple and effective, many scientists think that great strides would be made toward achieving that important and widely desired objective."

Noting that the federal government spends \$3 million annually on the program to control hoof-and-mouth disease, Father O'Brien contends that "a program to perfect the rhythm method, which promises more for the peace and happiness of the world, surely should receive as much federal support."

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For release after 11 a.m., Sunday, September 24th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Sept. 24 -- Because colleges and universities have largely lost touch with our spiritual and religious tradition, today's crucial need for education and campus research is likely to accelerate the spread of secularism throughout the world, Rev. Chester A. Soleta, C.S.C., vice president for academic affairs at the University of Notre Dame, declared here today (Sunday).

"Religion used to be the center of our culture and theology the center of academic life," Father Soleta observed. "Today, in spite of many public gestures, conferences and dialogues, there is still an almost abnormal fear in general academic circles to admit real theological discussion; and religion is still dismissed to the private feelings and conduct of the individual," he said.

Father Soleta preached the sermon during a Solemn Mass in Sacred Heart Church here marking the formal opening of the University of Notre Dame's 120th academic year. Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C., acting president, was celebrant of the Mass which was attended by the entire faculty in academic garb and a large segment of the student body.

Notre Dame's academic vice president said the Catholic college or university is the only institution in the Western World which is "effectively and consciously" still in touch with our spiritual and religious tradition. "It is our special mission," he said, "to preserve and strengthen that tradition, not in any rigid or static way but organically, helping it grow, to absorb and transform, to keep adapting itself, making itself effective at every moment of our time."

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Recently Notre Dame was commended publicly because it was sectarian in name only, Father Soleta recalled. "If this means what it says, that we are not narrow and divisive, then we accept it humbly and gratefully," he said. "If it suggests that being Christian and Catholic really means nothing to us, then it is time to stop and look at ourselves." To teach physics, biology, business and literature without reference to our tradition "with its human, spiritual and religious values is to be just another school," he warned.

Father Soleta told the assembled faculty members "we cannot evade all the questions which confront the Christian today by hiding within our specialties. As individuals we must in many ways, some small, some perhaps ambitious, keep asking questions toward an integration of our tradition with the present...By revitalizing our intellectual community with the past, we can perpetuate it into the future and draw modern man into its spirit and life without sacrificing the present," he said.

The return to our spiritual and religious tradition will be accomplished not by pronouncements, great policy decisions or committee conclusions, but rather "in the conscience of all of us as individuals, students and faculty," Father Soleta said. "To make this return is crucial to the existence of a Catholic University and a Christian, even a humane, world, for none of us doubts the profound and far-reaching influence of the university today."

The purpose of the Catholic college or university, in its own way and according to its own integrity, is apostolic, Father Soleta asserted. With devotion, hard work and humility "we can and we will redeem the mind of Christ and through the mind, culture and society, too. It may take a decade or a century. To our individual conscience it does not matter how long. For us there is only tomorrow, this month, this year. God in the providence of divine wisdom watches over the decades and the centuries," he said.

NEWS RELEASES FOR SEPTEMBER, 1961

61/49 September 14th New disciplinary regulations and no
"lights out time."

61/50 September 17th Opening of the 120th academic year.

61/51 September 18th Roger Brennan, Ray Durst and John Clarke appointed to Advisory Councils.

61/52 September 27th Personal papers of Thomas Mahoney acquired by the Archives.

61/53 September 25th Father O'Brien's birth control article in the
Sept. 26th issue of LOOK magazine.

61/54 September 24th Father Soleta's sermon at the opening Mass of the 120th school year.