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Thank God For Jimmie Powers!

It is hard to write about Jimmie Powers, now that he has gone. When God gives you a good look full into the bottom of a fellow's heart, and you see there enough goodness to make you ashamed of yourself for the rest of your life; and then God closes that heart to you again and takes it to Himself,--You can begin to understand why God took him, but you find it hard to tell others what you have seen.

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People can't understand Notre Dame. Even well-intentioned people, who respect our convictions, have to make allowances for lots of good faith when we tell them that the purpose of this school is to teach a man how to die. They can understand football, they can understand academic standards, they can understand character as fitting a man to live; but they smile sweetly and say, "Yes, yes," when we tell them that Notre Dame is dedicated to the principle, "What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world if he suffer the loss of his soul?"

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Thank God for Jimmie. He understood this principle. God gave him to us for only two months, but he came from a good home that prepared him to appreciate what Notre Dame had for him, the lesson of the love of God above all things, and the love on one's neighbor for the love of God.

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He loved God. He pursued Him in daily Communion; he had a lot of different kinds of prayer books to find new ways of telling God he loved Him. And with his heart full of that love, his first thought was always for others, not for himself. When he prayed for himself during his sickness, it was for strength to bear his excruciating pain. He offered up his sickness and death for the conversation of sinners, especially for thoughtless sinners. God has not let us know how much good he accomplished through this prayer.

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The first thing, he said, the last time we visited him, was, "Sit down; you'll be tiring yourself out." And he wasn't satisfied until we sat down. Every time he heard about the number of Communion offered for him, he said: "That's great. I wish I could tell them all how much I thank them." And those Communion and his own clean life gave him the strength he needed to suffer without complaint. Pray for him now. It's what he would want. The prayers will help other Poor Souls.