

March 21, 1928

Bill Mitchell's Anniversary.

Today is the first anniversary of the death of Bill Mitchell, who died as a result of injuries received in an auto accident on the way home from a dance at Hudson Lake St. Patrick's night. Please say a prayer for the repose of his soul.

Lenten Devotions.

Sermon and Benediction at 7:30 this evening.

In the Same Mail.

From a senior questionnaire:

"I used to believe prayer helped, but find it only to be a false conscience -- if there is such a condition as conscience..... Prayer as practiced and taught at Notre Dame is a mockery of God..... I do not confide in my father; he has governed and not been a true parent but is as the Catholic Church teaches, - no reason, rules only..... Spiritual direction is a failure, because the directors lack perspective and knowledge of human nature..... I read what I please when I please..... I have no faith and there are many deceivers and hypocrites in churches and at the railing now because of mechanical teaching and human respect....."

From a junior's letter:

"I have just received one of your "JIGGERS" and am happy to state that it arrived just a couple of weeks too late. I almost let the doctors experiment with the immortality of my soul during the Christmas holidays, so I have a different outlook on life. Thanks for the interest in me just the same, Father; I'll be over to see you real soon and bum some extra copies of the Bulletins on Matrimony. -- I almost couldn't recognize Reigh Count -- or is it Man of War that The Daredevil is about to mount from the wrong side?"

The junior's letter gives the vital answer to the senior's difficulty, because it is in the shadow of death that we learn true values. Perhaps a word more should be added to shake the pose of this senior (it is only a pose, although likely a subconscious one). It is hard to demonstrate the principle of authority to one who does not respect his father; there is no foundation to build upon. The Bolsheviki have the same view of parenthood. His notion of the insufficiency of spiritual directors is due for a rude shock; some day some priest will take one look at him and tell him everything he ever did and ever thought. Of self-sufficiency (in reading as well as thinking) Chesterton has recently said: "This is the age in which intellect is worshipped but not used." Of his throwing stones at daily communicants nothing need be said. Let us say in conclusion that whenever he is ready to talk to a priest he will receive a welcome, and there will be no hard feelings for the mean things he has said of us -- they don't sink in. As Ching Chow said Monday, "The fool thinks he is important; the superior man gazes at countless stars."

The Horse.

Pegasus of the ball and chain has distracted us from Father Goodall's horse, but during the quiet hour on the Bulletin contributions totaling \$14.66 were received. Seventy cents of this amount came from the Sorin Hall Bengal Box -- three cents left over from last year, and four added since September. Eighty-four more came through a mite box left on the table a few weeks ago. Another dollar came from the generous sinner who has twice paid for broken Lenten resolutions. Thanks.