

Religious Bulletin

May 24, 1928

It's Your Own Goose You're Cooking.

This is the last week of school; things are about to happen that will, in some cases, change your whole future. And at this turning point it is well for you to size up your situation.

You came to Notre Dame with some sort of purpose in mind. It may have been high, it may have been broad, it may have been too ambitious, -- in some cases it may have been silly. But a purpose you had. How close have you come to fulfilling it?

A good many students have been in to talk over this matter in the past few days. From their statements and from long experience one can judge that those who came here with a purpose in conformity with Notre Dame's reason for existence have, in the vast majority of cases, gained more than they ever thought possible in the way of character development. Some of them came here with the robe of baptismal innocence still unspotted; some there were with scars left by encounters with sin, and some came with bleeding wounds or festering ulcers. But they came, one and all, with good will, eager for the grace of God that would keep their souls white or would restore their health and vigor of soul. And they have found here peace of mind and health of soul.

Others came with good intentions but weak wills. Some of them have realized their weakness and have stayed close enough to the sources of grace to strengthen their wills; others have strayed into evil ways because they lacked the will to break with what they found to be an occasion of sin.

Others came without an idea in their heads, because their parents sent them, or because a friend was coming, or because it seemed the thing to do. Many of these have already left us; some of them have remained and have been given the gift of sense to see for themselves the opportunity God is giving them; and some more of them, although they have had the luck to escape the broom of the academic and disciplinary departments, are still as innocent as ever of any knowledge of what Notre Dame is all about.

But whatever brought you here, God pity you if you have resisted His graces all this year! You will always be prayed for, because Notre Dame prays for her erring sons. But no tears will be shed over you (except your own mother's tears and the tears of the girl whose heart you have broken) and Notre Dame will forget you until years from now when you bring her some unfavorable publicity; and then long memories will recall you, and it will be said in all charity, "It's too bad, but it was to be expected. He had no time for God at Notre Dame."

It's your own goose you're cooking. Your future is in your hands right now. Notre Dame has outlived many others like you in the past, and she will outlive you. When things happen that reflect discredit on her through the actions of her sons, the people who count always remember that the vast majority of Notre Dame men would be a credit to any educational institution in the world, and they make allowances. You suffer as an individual; it's your own goose you're cooking.

Of course, there is still time for you to redeem yourself. The season for Easter Duty will not close until a week from next Sunday. If you make it merely as a formality, to keep in touch with the Church, there is no likelihood that you will be any better off next year than this, but if you get down to business and ask a priest to prescribe a course of spiritual treatment that you will follow faithfully, you have a chance to come back and amount to something. But if you fail to make it and go out of Notre Dame never to come back, that will be soon enough.

PRAYERS: A student asks prayers for a friend, nineteen years old, who is quite ill with tuberculosis.