

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

May 23, 1932

Shake Hands With Father Farley

Sorin Hall is celebrating today the Silver Jubilee of the priesthood of its rector, Father Farley. (The event is anticipated by two months because the students will be away when the anniversary comes.) And in congratulating Father Farley today the students are paying tribute to the large share that discipline has in forming the Spirit of Notre Dame, for Father Farley's twenty-five years in the priesthood have gone hand in hand with twenty-five years of prefecting—gilt-edge prefecting.

During those twenty-five years Father Farley has carried out the ideal on which Father Moreau founded the Congregation of Holy Cross. When this community came into being, France was still bleeding from the wounds of the French Revolution. Taking the family as the primary unit of society, Father Moreau conceived a religious community based on the ideal of the Holy Family, and founded three societies: Priests, in imitation of Our Lord, Brothers, in imitation of St. Joseph, and Sisters, followers of the Blessed Virgin. And the spirit of the family was introduced into the colleges which grew up under the direction of these societies.

The whole world knows how well that spirit has worked out at Notre Dame; her sons are brothers wherever they meet. During the War it was often remarked in France by graduates of other colleges that whenever two Notre Dame met the clock stopped—and the men may have been years apart at school. They had had a common father who had said Mass for them in the morning and checked them in at night; they had been jollied along by the same paternal understanding; they had broken the same paternal rules; perhaps they had been kicked out by the same paternal foot. Fraternity brothers from other schools might find a community of interests for three minutes or so, but when two Notre Dame men came together there was the Truce of God.

The *Bulletin* joins with the students of Sorin Hall today in extending felicitations to Father Farley and in wishing him many more years in the happy service of God and Christian education. He represents an ideal our country needs.

An Ideal Christian Gentleman

Saturday's *Religious Bulletin* recorded the death of Admiral Benson, U. S. N., retired, and announced a Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul, to be sung tomorrow at 6:30 in the church. The *Bulletin* made known at the same time a fact of which few people were aware—that when the Admiral, lately retired as Chief of Naval Operations, was claimed by the President to head the Shipping Board, he was under contract as a professor of International Relations in the College of Commerce at Notre Dame.

Admiral Benson was an ideal Christian gentleman. Born on a Georgia plantation of long-established Protestant stock, he was a true representative of the finest ideals of Southern Protestantism. Through the influence of a Catholic wife and family he became a Catholic, and a noble one. His service to his country in the navy was of sterling quality, and it was providential that when the War broke out he was in charge of the Navy, as Chief of Naval Operations. He never had a full night's rest during that time—two telephones at his bedside kept him from that—and he carried in his head all the operations of the convoys which saw our boys safely to France. And when the full history of the Peace Conference of Versailles is written it will be seen that he was the strongest and most alert guardian of American rights in the American delegation there.

He received the highest decorations of the allied powers after the War, but they meant nothing to him compared with the Laetare Medal and the Knighthood of St. Gregory—the two honors which recognized his Catholicity. And as the outstanding American Catholic, he was elected first President of the National Council of Catholic Men, a post which he occupied for several years, and to which he devoted much activity.

Admiral Benson has gone to a great reward, and the blessing of Notre Dame follows him. A full attendance of the student body at the Mass tomorrow morning and a remembrance in your Holy Communions will be your tribute to this admirable Christian. He gave to Caesar the things that were Caesar's, and to God the things that were God's.

Announcements

PRAYERS are requested by Cliff Lennon and Ed Groden for relatives who are ill, and by another student for a deceased friend. Chas. Quigley was injured in an auto accident yesterday.

Anniversary Mass Wednesday, 6:25, in the Walsh Hall chapel, for the repose of the soul of Frank Burke, who was killed last year in an auto accident.

Found: Saturday evening, in front of the Post Office, a sum of money; a white rosary; a combination pen and pencil.