

**University of Notre Dame**  
**Religious Bulletin**  
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*A Letter From The Superior General*

Notre Dame, Indiana, May 27, 1932.

The Reverend John O'Hara, C. S. C.,  
Prefect of Religion,  
Notre Dame, Ind.

REVEREND AND DEAR FATHER,

I do not wish to let the Octave of Corpus Christi pass without congratulating you and your boys on the Eucharistic devotion of the past year. What high theology in the words of St. Bernard: "Ad Jesum per Mariam"—"To Jesus through Mary." Yes, Mary has led her sons to Jesus, to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

During the month of February, I received the following document from Rome which contains a message for the students of Notre Dame.

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Holy Apostolic Penitentiary.  
Office of Indulgences.

MOST HOLY FATHER,

The Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross prostrate at the feet of your Holiness, humbly asks that an indulgence of 300 days may be gained by students who frequent schools conducted by the Religious of Holy Cross, each time they recite one or other of the following ejaculations:

"My Jesus, pardon and mercy through the merits of Thy Sacred Wounds."

"Eternal Father I offer Thee the wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ to heal those of our souls."

—*Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary*, February 5, 1932.

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I beg you, Reverend and dear Father, to do all in your power to spread devotion to the Wounds of Jesus among the students of Notre Dame. Encourage them to kneel before the statute of the Scourged Christ on their way to and from adoration that they may come to understand the greatness of God's love for them and the greatness of the malice of sin. The Wounds of Christ will speak to them with divine eloquence. As they kneel let them make acts of sincere contrition and then offer to Christ in honor of one or all His Wounds the sacrifice of some permitted pleasure or the denial of some sinful desire.

Some may say, "The statue is inartistic." I answer, "So is sin." Some may say, "It is revolting." I answer, "So is sin." Still others may say, "It is disgusting, shocking, repulsive." To all I answer, "So is sin."

Living in an age of renascent paganism, in the midst of a people who know little or nothing of sin's malice, we must ever be on our guard that our consciousness of sin's awfulness may never become dulled. We need at all times to be shocked out of our apathy and indifference toward the one and only real evil. Nothing can do this so quickly and effectively as the torn, beaten, pounded, bleeding, mangled body of Him Who was wounded for our iniquities.

Through the intercession of Our Blessed Lady, the Mother of Sorrows, may the Wounds of Christ obtain for us all an ever-growing understanding of sin's malice, an abiding sorrow for past sins, an ever-present fear of sinning as well as the efficacious determination never to sin again.

Sancta Mater, istud agas,  
Crucifixi fige plagas,  
Cordi meo valide.

Holy Mother pierce me through,  
In my heart each wound renew,  
Of my Saviour Crucified.

With every best wish, Reverend and dear Father, I remain yours devotedly in Christ,

JAMES W. DONAHUE, C. S. C.,  
*Superior General.*