

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
May 30, 1933

"A Good Name Is Better Than Riches."

A few weeks ago prayers were requested for the success of a retreat then under preparation. That the prayers were answered is sufficiently evident from the following letter, written by the retreat master at the Loyola House of Retreats, Morristown, N.J.:

"Rev. and dear Father: You will pardon, I am sure, a stranger writing to advise you of the unusual success of the retreat, just concluded at Loyola, of the Notre Dame Club of New York.

"The group was outstanding for its seriousness and fervor, during those few choice days of grace. These men are true champions of Christ and Catholicity - loyal to God - to themselves and to Notre Dame.

"On the last day of the retreat these loyal sons of Notre Dame offered their Holy Mass, Holy Communion, Rosary and Stations of the Cross for the physical and temporal welfare of Very Rev. Father O'Donnell.

"It was a genuine pleasure to meet and know these men.

"Alfred B. Oates, S.J."

Such a letter means more to your Alma Mater than a thousand AAA ratings in Dun or Bradstreet, more than a dozen alumni in the U.S. Senate. Notre Dame wants you to succeed, prays for your success, urges you to proper ambition, but her first concern is for your spiritual welfare. If she knows that you are loyal to God and the Catholic Church, she leaves the rest to God. She doesn't want you to have the incubus of any temporal prosperity that would injure your soul.

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Your turn is coming. What sort of letters will we have about you? That will depend pretty largely on the use you have made of the grace of God as it is offered to you at Notre Dame. The Calendar for this year reminded you that it is the part of wisdom to lay up treasures in heaven, where banks don't fail. Either you took that to heart or you didn't. If you have received Holy Communion daily, or practically daily, this year, you have not only acquired a fine bank account in heaven, but you have also made an excellent preparation for a good Catholic life. If you have rejected all your opportunities, or most of them, keep on praying for sense, and see what you can make of the summer. (The Catholic Church, you know, is not confined to Notre Dame.)

Keep in mind St. Peter's advice on good example: "Having your conversation good among the gentiles: that whereas they speak against you as evil-doers, they may, by the good works which they behold in you, glorify God in the day of visitation..... For so it is the will of God, that by doing well you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men." -- 1 St. Peter, 2:12, 15.

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And now go home and blow! You may have been small potatoes at Notre Dame, but you will be a big shot in the home town. For nine long months you have sung the praises of your native village and knocked Notre Dame. The next three months will witness the reverse process. You will find the native heath provincial, backward, uncouth. You will tell them how much better we do things at Notre Dame. But just remember this: ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS. If your conduct this summer is such as people have a right to expect of Our Lady's men, come back in September and welcome; if it fails to measure up to a reasonable standard - well, just keep going. God bless you!