

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Blessed Be God!

We must never forget to thank God for His favors. Now and then it is good to offer a good, round act of thanksgiving for the blessings of which we are not even conscious; oftener than that we should express our gratitude for the favors we can't help seeing.

At the opening of the new school year we bless God for the favors of the past twelve months, and especially this year for the singular protection He has given us during the vacation period. No student died this summer - and only one during the whole past year. James Manion passed away last December. There were accidents, of course, and cases of serious illness, but God turned away the hand of death. We thank Him earnestly, and we pray for His continued protection during the year upon which we are now entering.

One prospective student died, Leo McKenna, Jr., of Montreal. The circumstances of his death were beautiful and consoling. He had come into our ken when he stopped here while on a visit to the World's Fair, after working his way down from Montreal on a boat. He and his companion had made friends with a priest here, and Leo was so impressed with Notre Dame that he asked his father's permission to transfer here.

The father writes that he was still considering the matter when he received word of his son's death in an auto accident. With the companion of his trip to Notre Dame he had driven to Quebec to visit his mother in a hospital there. He made a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre and received Holy Communion there; on the return trip he and the other boy stopped at half a dozen churches to pray for Mrs. McKenna's recovery. On their way home that night their car overturned as they swerved to avoid hitting a farmer's wagon. Leo was killed - within fifteen feet of a wayside cross. Within five minutes the Bishop of Valleyfield stopped at the scene and gave conditional absolution - as a priest may validly for some time after apparent death from an accident. And again we say, "Blessed be God," for a happy death is the highest hope of a Notre Dame man. Nothing else matters.

There were several deaths among the alumni. Father James McGinnis, '99, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., left beautiful memories behind him; of Paul McGannon, '08, a non-Catholic friend wrote, in a request for Masses: "He was the finest gentleman I have ever known." Will McInerney, '04, Hal Jewett, '90, and Chas. W. Shear, '89, left hosts of friends.

Mr. Edwin Rowley, Sr., founder of the Rowley Scholarship at Notre Dame (founded in memory of an only son, who met an accidental death here in 1925), died last Sunday after a lingering illness. Another benefactor, A.R. Erskine, who was also a trustee of the University, died during the summer.

The following ask prayers for relatives recently deceased: Father Dolan, Louis Hruby, Jerome Vesely, Ed Farley; the fathers of Father Leo R. Ward, Brother Xavier, Brother Philbert, Wm. Bell, '25, Dan Egan, '31, Ray Downs, '24; the mothers of John Fitzpatrick, '33, Bob Stoepler, '28, Jack Kinsella.

Two of our recent alumni, one of them a professor at the University, have gone to the southwest to regain their health. They are Prof. Jos. C. Ryan, '24, and Robert Q. Murphy, '26. For these, and for others in whom we should be interested, your earnest prayers are bespoken.

Finally, we recommend to the charity of our readers the health of our President, Father O'Donnell, who has spent much of the summer in hospitals. Father O'Donnell is making steady but slow progress against a new outbreak of the streptococcus infection which proved so dangerous last spring. With care and rest the treatment he is receiving should insure complete recovery. Prayer can hasten this happy event, and we ask you to remember Father O'Donnell daily in Holy Communion.