

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
April 11, 1934

The Salt of the Earth.

Twenty-one years ago last month, a young man from Kansas sought admission to the Congregation of Holy Cross. He was twenty-three years of age and had been around enough to know that he wanted to serve God and not the world. On the 19th of March he was clothed with the habit of a religious and took the name of Brother Martin.

According to the family tradition, St. Martin of Tours was a member of Brother Martin's family - a family which has given hundreds of priests and religious to the service of God. Two of his sisters are nuns, and two aunts founded convents of Sisters of St. Joseph - and one of them received her own mother into the convent after their father's death (the mother, at the age of 75, received the habit from Cardinal Mundelein).

The year following his reception into the community, Brother Martin was assigned to work in the printing office of the Ave Maria and to prefect in one of the University dormitories. The intervening twenty years saw Brother Martin develop into one of the most thoroughgoing religious at Notre Dame. A model of fidelity to duty and a keen-minded workman, he made over the Ave Maria pressroom and equipped it as a thoroughly modern establishment. And after the day's work was over, he took up his duties as prefect in St. Edward's Hall. His prefecting was marked by a strong sense of justice tempered with a clever drollery that made him both efficient and popular.

Such men are the salt of the earth. When the history of Notre Dame is written, the names of men like Brother Martin will loom large. He did his day's work - and his night's work afterwards - for the love of God. His piety was real without being ostentatious or bothersome to others. He rose early for his devotion, but he retired late. He could not stand idleness: he made rosaries in his spare time at night, and even turned his big fingers to delicate painting and embroidery to keep them busy. He left no talent undeveloped.

People who wonder how Notre Dame can succeed in competition with tax-supported institutions and with heavily endowed private universities, fail to reckon with their Brother Martins. Father Sorin and the other priests, and Brother Martin and the other brothers who have given their lives to Notre Dame, are beyond the comprehension of statisticians who judge of educational values by the millions left by people who found no pockets in shrouds. The Father Sorins and Father Hudsons, the Brother Valerians and Brother Martins, have given to Notre Dame not only the millions of dollars their services were worth in a material way; they have given to this University the spirit of service for the love of God which is worth infinitely more than all the gold in the world, and is something that all the gold in the world cannot buy. It is the salt of the earth.

Brother Martin died yesterday morning in St. Joseph's Hospital. His immediate illness lasted only a week, and followed an operation last Tuesday. For years he has been suffering from maladies that would have killed the spirit of less thorough men, but which hardly interfered with Brother Martin's work. He blessed God alike for good health and ill, and tried to make the most of both.

A Mass for the repose of his soul will be sung in the church tomorrow (Thursday) morning at 6:25. Be there; offer Holy Communion for the repose of his soul. The funeral Mass will be held Friday morning, and all who are free from classes should try to pay this additional tribute to his memory.

Prayers.

Deceased: a friend of Bert Baur (killed in an auto accident); a friend of Robt. Bennavies, Ill; Rev. Ambrose Murphy, an old friend of the Ave Maria; Harry White's uncle.
MASS: Thursday, 5:45; Sorin Chapel, for Mm. Bruno's father (New Jersey Club),