

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Brother Columba, C.S.C.

Eleven years ago tomorrow Brother Columba, a simple lay brother, known as "The Miracle Man," died at Notre Dame. Only a plain, iron cross in the Community cemetery, along the walk to Saint Mary's, marks his resting place.

Known during his lifetime to hundreds and thousands of alumni and old students as the Brother in the Shoe Store, Brother Columba received acclaim through his devotion to the Sacred Heart.

In the shoe shop he always kept a red light burning before a statue of the Sacred Heart. He always had the little red badges of the Sacred Heart for all who asked for them.

Students and visitors to the campus saw unusual holiness behind his simple, cheerful exterior life. Often they asked him to pray for the cure of this or that malady of the body or soul.

His fame spread. Calls came from cities throughout the Middle West. The Brother tried always to respond and always returned home disclaiming credit for the cures that were attributed to him.

He contracted influenza in the epidemic of 1920 and never quite recovered from the attack. On November 20, 1923, he died.

Brother Columba would be the last to permit the title "Miracle Man." But he would like to feel that his devotion to the Sacred Heart had helped enkindle at Notre Dame the traditional love of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

He would like to help convince boys of the present generation that to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament they must look for help, encouragement, and strength, in all their sorrows and difficulties.

That grace, you can be sure, Brother Columba is still praying for.

Do They Hold Up?

"Fellows go to Holy Communion frequently while at Notre Dame, but they do well if they make their Easter Duty after they leave school."

You think "mob psychology" dominates at school? You think daily communicants have no deep convictions to carry them along in after life? What are your facts? In the meantime, examine these, turned up in the Alumni Survey of 1932:

Of those alumni who had received Holy Communion daily or practically daily while they were students at Notre Dame, 9% received daily, 45% weekly or oftener, 31% monthly or oftener, after they had been graduated from Notre Dame. In other words, 85% of those who were daily communicants at Notre Dame received monthly or oftener on their own out in the world.

There are plenty of other equally-impressive facts in the same Survey, in case you are interested in studying the question scientifically.

PRAYERS: Deceased, Father McCarty, uncle of Patrick McCarty (Brownson); aunt of Tom and Frank Quinlan. Ill, father of Ed. Quinn (Off Campus), seriously injured; father of Al. Sniadowski (Alumni); Junio Gilder, ex-'31; father and godmother of Al Orzechowski. Four special intentions. Ill, friend of Justin O'Toole.