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Mother at the Gate.

Here is a heart-rending letter from an unhappy mother whose son has lost his faith at one of our secular universities:

"When I sent him there," she writes, "he was a good boy, went to Mass and the Sacraments regularly, and was fond of going to church. I never noticed the change in him until his last year in school. Then religion became a bore to him. He disliked going to confession. He was too tired to go to Mass. After graduation he gave up his religion entirely. He scoffed at the existence of God. He jeered at the teachings of the Church."

The letter was quoted by the Ave Maria for August 10 with the following comment:

It seems a pity that tragedies like this can occur without there being any redress against those who have destroyed the faith of this boy. Were it possible, this broken-hearted mother says, she would stand at the entrance of the university in question the first day of every school year and make known what harm has been done to her son.

Our Lady watches, in the place of your own mother, at the gates of Notre Dame. Impurity, drunkenness, sloth--keep them out of your life at Notre Dame and your faith will grow deep with your learning.

The environment here is the most salutary in the world for the training of men strong in faith. But this is not a jail, nor an institution for the feeble-minded.

Look again at your green Eucharistic Calendar. You have to cooperate willingly and intelligently even here at Notre Dame.

My First Day at College.

The Religious Digest for September, 1935, attributes the following prayer to Mr. Percy R. Hayward:

Lord, it has always been my habit, in all my little and my great experiences, to turn unto Thee. So on this Day of Days, my first day at college, I come unto Thee in prayer.

Amid the lulls of these exciting hours, I would have time now and then to remember in gratitude those who have made it possible for me to be here.

For my parents, for my friends, for my relatives and loved ones everywhere--for all those who by sacrifice and loving thought and sympathetic encouragement have helped to break down all barriers to my coming, I give Thee thanks.

Grant me wisdom in choosing the new friends who are to become mine during the years here. Enable me to select wisely from among the multitude of influences that will challenge me. Give me a vigorous and ruthless ability to turn aside even from the good--for the better. Sharpen and quicken my zest for knowledge. Enable me honestly to ask myself what my purpose in life is--and to remake it if I find it unworthy. Amen.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Mr. E.L. Doheny, friend of the university; M.J. Connell, member of the Advisory Board of College of Commerce. Ill, James Seymour's sister; Gil-ospie's father and uncle; Jack Britton's father; father of Mark Fitzgerald C.S.C.