

University of Notre Dame
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. . . And Again!



Terry Austin

Still another Notre Dame man has stood within the week in judgment before his Maker. Yesterday at 6:50 Terry Austin (A.B. '34), student in the College of Law, died in Epworth Hospital as a result of injuries suffered in the disastrous auto crash which occurred near Mishawaka early Sunday.

Terry and Gilbert Elliott, who died Sunday, were residents of South Bend.

In many ways Terry was an extremely fortunate boy. Likeable and bright, he made friends easily wherever he happened to be. He possessed unusual intelligence and gifts of leadership. From Central High School in South Bend he was graduated with one of the highest grades in his class. Here at Notre Dame he served with distinction as vice-president of the Band and as a member of the Glee Club.

Last year two great tragedies befell the naturally affable and high-spirited Terry. First, his father died and, six months later, he lost his mother. Affectionate to a fault, Terry took these blows unusually hard. For months he groped in hopeless grief and skeptical reflection.

What meant life? How could God permit such insufferable loneliness? Was there point or purpose to his living any more?

Yet this double tragedy, his philosophical training, and his associations at Notre Dame, helped him out of chaos to an important adjustment.

He would gather himself together and study law earnestly as his mother had wished. He would live out the ideals she and Notre Dame had set before him.

In his latter months his life took a still more significant turn. The Catholic Faith began to draw him. Even to non-Catholic friends he frequently expressed the desire to have a Catholic priest at his deathbed. To one intimate friend he confided, only two months ago, that he was to become a Catholic.

And on his deathbed his wish was fulfilled. Night before last Father O'Hara baptized him conditionally, gave him conditional absolution, and administered the sacrament of Extreme Unction.

And today? Let us hope, with good reason, that Terry is among the Blessed, who, seeing the light, determined at every cost to follow it.

To his bereaved ones, especially to his Grandfather and Grandmother, with whom he lived, Notre Dame extends heartiest sympathy. Terry must have brought much joy to their home. They will miss him keenly.

In knowing that Terry died as he had wanted to die, with the ministrations of the Catholic Church, they will find consolation. Notre Dame priests and professors and students will cherish the memory of Terry and will pray often and earnestly for the repose of his soul.

PRAYERS: Ill, Norman Duke, John Singler, Jack Reed, Fred Weidner, Leona Weidner.