

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 15, 1935.

A Letter From A MAN.

Some weeks ago the Bulletin told of Van Wallace, young Notre Dame man who has prayed and smiled through thirteen long years of paralysis and disappointment. He writes now to thank you for the letters you have sent him and, above all, for your prayers.

"I've been pretty slow in getting around to tell you that I have received a whole mass of letters and cards as a result of your mentioning me in the Bulletin, and to thank you for having obtained the assurance of so many prayers. There surely were a lot of them, mostly coming from the campus, of course, but many, too, from alumni and others: priests, students from other schools (both boys' and girls' schools), from seminarians, mothers of students--I was amazed at the wide circulation of the Bulletin. There are a lot of generous people on your mailing list. It is pretty hard to find a way to thank them all adequately for so many prayers and good works. But you and they may be sure that I value them highly, even if I can't find words to express myself fully.

"Prayer, you see, (as I have often told Father O'Hara) is the only medicine I've had since I have been laid up. The flocks of doctors who have seen me have been unable to suggest even a single treatment, other than to "let Nature take its course"; and who is there that would say prayer has not done at least that much? I think prayer has done more, and I appreciate accordingly--to put the whole thing mildly.

"I'm going to write and thank all those who signed names to their letters, of course; perhaps I won't do it so promptly, my system of typing by hook being what it is, but eventually. That will be simple enough. But the ones who just sent an anonymous assurance of prayers and sympathy present a more difficult problem. I wonder if you could tuck a line in your Bulletin, some day when it's not too crowded, thanking them for me? I'd appreciate it a lot. But please use your own judgment about the whole matter, and, above all, don't take even a little space from anything important.....

"I want you to know that I value those prayers--plenty. And I want to thank you a lot, you and the students and the others. (One of them was Father Stedman, Director of the Confraternity of the Precious Blood, who enrolled my name in perpetual membership. Another was "Sophomore", who reported that at a "session" they had discussed your Bulletin and me, and that the members were remembering me.) But such things are too big to thank with words--I hope you'll understand. Would you request prayers for an aunt of mine who is dangerously ill?"

Listen, Van, no Bulletin reader expects you to write a personal acknowledgment. It is too much for you. But when you feel like it write to all through the Bulletin. We will be much honored to use your letters. God bless you, and pray for us all.

Most Reverend Philip E. McDevitt, R.I.P.

In the death of the Most Reverend Bishop of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Notre Dame has lost a sincere friend and most loyal supporter. If there was any one characteristic which stood out in Bishop McDevitt's life, it was his interest in Catholic education. And if there was any one institution which embodied his ideals, that institution was the University of Notre Dame. He knew Notre Dame and loved its student body. More than most other people he sensed what was being done here. And he carried that appreciation in the Catholic educational field which he served eminently for many years. Notre Dame owes a great debt of gratitude to Bishop McDevitt, and the student body shares in that debt. We bespeak your prayers for his noble soul.

PRAYERS: (deceased) uncle of Martin O'Loughlin (Brownson), Ill, friend of student; Matt. Gonring (Dillon).

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