

Dispensation from fast and abstinence for all eating on the campus Saturday.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
October 30, 1936

Aunt, first cousin of Joe Sullivan die in fire which consumes home. Another cousin ill.

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For Elmer Layden And The Team.

A youngster in New Jersey writes: "I wish I could get word to Mr. Layden that no matter how the breaks go for Notre Dame, he and his team will always be 'tops' to thousands of freckle-faced, red-headed Mickey Rileys and Tim Ryans all over the country. Mr. Layden himself and those other Horsemen and Andy Pilney and Mr. Knute Rockne made it that way. I hope that Mr. Layden and those men playing under him will never forget that. My brother and I and our bunch will be at the radio back here listening."

At the request of the S.A.C., there will be a Mass for the team at 6:25 in the main church tomorrow morning. Everybody is requested to be at this Mass.

Evidence For The Resurrection.

By Arnold Lunn.

Question X. Well, let's take a particular miracle. What's the evidence for the Resurrection?

Answer. Before replying to the last question, let me make a few remarks on the technique of controversy. St. Thomas Aquinas said that no intelligent discussion is possible until you have discovered a common premise. In other words, you cannot disagree intelligently until you have discovered some point on which you can agree. Unless you find this common premise, you can shout at your opponent but you can't argue with him. St. Thomas opens his Summa Theologica with a fact of every-day experience, the fact that some things are in motion. On this fact he builds the first of his five proofs for the existence of God.

Here are a few samples which I have collected from Catholics whom I have challenged to defend the Resurrection. "Christ had to rise again because He was God." Yes, but what if your opponent does not believe in God? "If Christ did not rise from the dead, Christianity would be the most dreadful hoax." Which is, precisely, what many people believe Christianity to be. "Christ was seen by His disciples after he rose from the dead and the witnesses of the Resurrection described their experiences and those experiences are recorded in the Gospels." Yes, but supposing your skeptic replies that the Gospels were not written by eye witnesses or by those in touch with eye witnesses but many years later when myths and legends had begun to accumulate? Where's your common premise then?

Well, you can, of course, begin by establishing the claim of the four Gospels to be historical records. Harnack, at one time an advanced critic with radical views, created a sensation by informing the astonished world of German scholarship that the chronological framework within which tradition had arranged the original documents was correct on all essential points.

The book which had more effect than any other in converting me to Christianity was Professor Salmon's, Introduction to the New Testament. Then again there is the internal evidence of the Gospels. Any man who has ever tried to write a novel will be impressed by the authentic note of truth in the Gospels. But it's a long job trying to prove the accuracy of the Gospel records and it's unsuitable for a rough and tumble discussion in a bar or street car or club--the sort of places in which much of our apostolic work must be done--and so we had better find a common premise independent of these convincing but rather intricate arguments. And I suggest that you hunt around for that common premise and see if you can't find it before it's published in the Bulletin. (Confer Mr. Lunn's book, "Now I See," pp. 159-178, for a summary of internal evidence from the literary style of the four Gospels. Editor's note.)

PLAYERS: (deceased) father of Dick Shager ('34). Ill, Father Healy's mother; Jack Sheehan (publicity office); grandmother of Jim Thatcher ('ex '36); Frances Mallon, a friend of student. One special intention for the University.