

Wednesday, Friday, and  
Saturday are days of fast  
and abstinence.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
May 12, 1937.

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From Dad To Joe.

Dear Joe:

...Now about the article in the Forum. Magazine reading is not much in my line and your mother is too busy with the house and the children. I never even heard of the magazine.

When I got a chance I asked Father \_\_\_\_\_, and he told me what it was all about. First off, I felt ashamed to be even asking about it. He and a lot of others like him do so much in comparison with what we do. How easy it is to dig up dirt if you go looking for it. It is easier still to imagine dirt and to stick it onto someone.

I suppose every family is like our own. We have relatives whose failings we regret. We try to help them as much as we can, and we hope the general good impression of the others will balance out in our favor. The weak ones are ours, but our family pride keeps us from telling the world about them.

My business has brought me in contact with many priests and brothers and sisters--even into parts of their houses where few go. I have always come away with the feeling of the wonder of our religion. What else could bring so many varied characters together and hold them to a great work? What do they get out of it?

We have a comfortable home and luxuries enough according to our means. Our own home seems a palace in comparison with what religious people in general put up with. After our visits to your sister in the convent, knowing the bare necessities she has and how she once liked nice things, her carefree way and entire devotion to her work seem still a mystery to me. Most other religious are the same as she.

Let me tell you that if those priests and religious have even a decent place to live in they have it for their work, and they have it because of sacrifice and careful handling of funds. The more

PRAYERS: (deceased) 1st anniv. of father of Edward Cronin (Mor.); Herman O'Hara ('14). Ill, Jim Thatcher (Ex '25), appendectomy; friend of Joe O'Brien (Old Inf.); friend of Jim McLaughlin (Coria); Dick Carney (Bodin), appendectomy. 1 thanksgiving. 1 soc. int.

dealings I have with them the more contented I am to let them handle my contributions to the Church.

I know too how often priests are imposed upon. Their position in the community gives them influence and in their desire to do good they are often the victims of schemers and pushers as well as of the totally unworthy. Here and there you may find one a little tight-fisted, but if I were really hungry I'd take my chance at the nearest priest's rectory.

Your mother was worried when she read your letter. She said wouldn't it be a pity if Joe let booklearning get between him and his common sense. I told her that was up to you. And so it is, Son.

The fellow with the line will never get you down if you know enough to keep your mouth shut until you hear all sides of a question. Ask that fellow who was talking to you what keeps him from knocking on the door of some seminary. I imagine the real reason is what he'd have to give up.

Anyway, you'll find it hard enough to keep your own conscience straight without wondering what God thinks about other peoples' consciences. I find that detraction and calumny are still part of the examination of conscience in the prayer book. Do you?

Your loving Dad.

Young Lawyers, Attention!

Within the last week, two societies for Catholic lawyers--The American Guild of St. Ives, National Bank Building, Logansport, Indiana; and Catholic Lawyers Guild, Central Square, Chicago--have announced special Masses and meetings. The general purpose of both these organizations is to bring Catholic members of the bar into closer spiritual and fraternal relationship.

Young lawyers who intend to practice in Indiana or Chicago should get in touch with one or the other of these organizations.