

May hymns at the Grotto  
for the last time immedi-  
ately after supper tonight.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
May 31, 1937.

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For The White Shepherd.

Late yesterday Father O'Hara cabled your spiritual bouquet of 14,712 Holy Communion to Pope Pius XI at Rome, and you may be sure that your message found an affectionate response in the Great Pontiff's heart early this morning on his 80th birthday.

How this Holy Father deserves the grateful prayers and enthusiastic support of all Christendom! Seriously ill, tortured by frightful pain, only recently returned from death's door, he bears the ugly new wounds of the Church in Germany and Spain, and upon his shoulder the old mal-formed crosses of his children in Russia and Mexico. Yet, in spite of these weakening burdens, this energetic Pope of 80 years finds light and courage and strength to champion the rights and liberties of all suffering members of the human race throughout the world.

At the beginning of his reign, Pope Pius XI was called the Scholar-Pope because he had spent his previous years in learned isolation. Then, successively, he became the Pope of the Missions, of Seminaries, of Science, of Catholic Action, of Peace.

Today he is most widely revered and loved as the Pope of the Working People. Only last St. Joseph's day he issued his remarkable encyclical on Atheistic Communism, analyzing and refuting that false philosophy and advocating a Christian order of economic justice for all.

From Our Sunday Visitor for yesterday we take these paragraphs on Pius XI's pontificate; they were originally written in a pastoral letter by the Most Reverend Karl J. Alter, D.D., Bishop of Toledo:

"Few popes in the long dynasty of Peter's successors have won for themselves the admiration, reverence and affection of the world as has Pius XI now gloriously reigning. He has labored incessantly for the maintenance of peace, justice and charity. He has solved the Roman Question which troubled the Church for 60 years. He has established concordats with the nations of

the world in greater number than any pope since the days of the Reformation. He has canonized more saints than any of his predecessors in modern times. He has opened up vast mission fields for spiritual conquest. He has labored to build up the Catholic press of the world as an antidote to atheistic Communism and irreligion. He has established the Papal Academy of Science and has shown himself the friend and advocate of every modern advance in science, letters, art and practical inventions.

"...He has been the sentinel on the watch-towers of Israel, warning, guiding and encouraging the faithful in their combat with evil. Witness the 15 great encyclical letters in which he teaches the world the truth of Christ, setting forth the sound doctrine of reason and revelation against the vagaries, the sophistries and the pernicious propaganda of the enemies of God and the human family. Who has labored as he has to save the world from Bolshevism or atheistic Communism which would subvert and destroy not only Christian faith and morality but also the entire civil order respecting peace, prosperity and freedom, justice and charity, drowning them all in an ocean of blood through civil strife and war!

"Recently, brethren, our hearts thrilled with admiration and enthusiasm as we watched the Holy Father master the infirmities of age and disease and with intrepid courage rise from his bed of pain to address to the world over the radio and by the written word stirring messages of encouragement to the Church oppressed by Nazism in Germany, by persecuting Socialism in Mexico and by atheistic Communism throughout the world.

"There should be of right a public and universal recognition of the services rendered to the Church and the whole human race by this peerless champion of God and man. With hearts filled with gratitude we should give thanks to God for having raised up in His Church such an inspiring leader whom the faithful everywhere spontaneously revere, love and obey."

PRAYERS: (deceased) Rev. Joseph J. Weston, S.S.E.; Rev. Nicholas Maas; father of Vince Hartnett (Al.); friend of Jim Casper (Cav.). Ill, Fr. C. Hooyboer; Dr. Dugan; sister of Tom Condon (Wal.); Jim Gildea (ex-'35); George and Edward Lind (seriously injured in accident); Miss Margaret O'Rourke; friend of R. Martinez. Five special intentions.