

Mass and Communion Saturday
morning in your own hall
chapel for the team.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 8, 1937.

Atrocities In Spain.

A student has recently objected to certain statements made in the Bulletin last year regarding Spanish atrocities. The student was not too specific but he enclosed a clipping on Guernica which attempted to prove that the Nationalists equally with the Reds are guilty of atrocities.

Now that Mr. Lunn is back on the campus after having visited war-time Spain, we have asked him to answer the student. (And, by the way, for those specially interested, Mr. Lunn's new book "Spanish Rehearsal" will be published by Sheed & Ward at the end of this month; Mr. Lunn will lecture on the Spanish war in Washington Hall on October 14 and 21.) His reply to the student follows:

Guernica cannot be discussed out of its context. It is important to realize the distinction between the crimes proved against and admitted by the Reds, and the charges alleged against the Nationalists.

I. Motive. Both Communists and Anarchists on the one side accept as a fundamental principle of the class war the liquidation by violence of certain classes. The Nationalists, on the other side, are not waging a class war. In the Nationalist Army every class is represented from dukes to peasants and proletarians. The Nationalists execute only men convicted of crimes such as murder. The Reds massacre men and women for the crime of wearing a collar and tie.

II. Scale. Even if we accepted all the Red charges as proved, there would still be this fantastic contrast of scale. Mr. Arthur Bryant, the well-known British historian, places the number of those who have been massacred in Red Spain at 350,000. Significant are the facts published by the Manchester Guardian, the greatest of the British Provincial papers, and a supporter of the Valencia Government. The correspondent of this Liberal and Left-wing paper informs us

that official records exist of the murder of 35,000 people in Madrid in the first three months of the war. And he adds that the real figures cannot be less than 40,000. Llorente, the ex-secretary and bitter enemy of the Inquisition, estimates the number of those executed by the Spanish Inquisition in three centuries as 31,912. Lea, the Protestant historian dismisses this estimate as based on "extravagant guesses," but if we accept this extravagant over-estimate as correct we arrive at the astounding conclusion that the Inquisition in three centuries operating over the whole of Spain put to death fewer victims than the Reds (on the testimony of a paper that supports them) in three months in the city of Madrid.

III. Type of Atrocity. The Nationalists are accused of shooting. The Reds have pleaded guilty to torture. The Nationalists have published several documented reports of Red atrocities. The Embassy of the Spanish Government in London issued a reply. The Embassy "has not denied nor denies now that there have been excesses in the repressive conduct of the Government forces...The Spanish Embassy in London does not in fine contradict the rebel pamphlet."

The Red atrocities are therefore admitted fact. Read the first Burgos report which the Spanish Embassy does not contradict and you will find that it contains case after case of torture, soaking victims in petrol as a preliminary to burning them alive. You will find murder and torture of women and children. Nor do the Reds suffer from any invidious class distinction in their atrocities. In one case an asylum full of aged paupers were killed with axes. It is not difficult for those who have been in close contact with the victims of these horrors to believe in "evil spirits wandering through the world for the ruin of souls."

(To be concluded tomorrow under the heading, Red Charges Against the Nationalists.)

PRAYERS: (deceased) mother of Professor J. Kline; Brother Charles of the Crosier Fathers (Minnesota). Ill, Mrs. Patrick Hoed; friend of Joe Clifford ("Alsh"); father of Timothy Cruico (Alumni); sister of Albert Phaneuf (seriously). 1 spec. intention.