

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 23, 1937

Every Year A Birthday.

All non-eternal things had a beginning. The Religious Bulletin is a non-eternal thing. Therefore, it had a beginning. And having had a beginning, it must, of course, have its annual birthday.

On October 24, 1921, about the time when Skeezix came to the home of Uncle Walt, the Bulletin began. That, you see, makes the Bulletin just 16 tomorrow.

Back in '21 there were, as there are today, boys on the campus. And since boys will be boys in '21 or '37 Bulletins must be Bulletins at 16 or one. Certain abuses marred the first day of the mission of '21, and out came the bristling first Bulletin, then called "Mission Bulletin," to slap down the abuses. There were seven copies in that first issue--one for posting in each of the six halls then operating at the University, one for the off-campus students.

The first Bulletin worked: stopped the abuses, got on well with the boys. There just had to be other Bulletins, said the boys, even though the mission had ended.

So, two or three times a week, out came more bristling Bulletins under the present title. Not knowing when they had enough, the boys called for even more, and they got it again--this time in a daily issue picked out personally by Father O'Hara on his own typewriter. That way he wrote the daily Religious Bulletin for the next three years.

Request for "extra" copies to send to this friend and that became so numerous that in September, 1924, the Bulletin had to be mimeographed. Even then, however, copies were furnished for only a limited number of students and for those few friends outside the University who would understand local conditions and see in the text the exaggerated outlines of a caricature.

The University, acceding in October, 1929,

PRAYERS: (deceased) anniversary of Varnum Parish, Jr. ('35); anniversary of grandmother of Graham and Arthur Starr (How.); anniversary of Walter Creed, brother of Vince Creed (Fresh.). Ill, aunt of Tom O'Reilly; Rt. Rev. Msgr. M. M. Gerend, uncle of Walter Gerend (How.); Douglas Haley (Zahm); cousin of Marty Shea (Cav.); Geo. Belting ('34); father of Jack Beilstein (Lyons), father of Bill Pagan (Zahm).

to a general request of students, decided to have a daily copy of the Bulletin delivered to each student's room. Moreover, that year the University determined its present policy, of mailing the Bulletin to all alumni and friends who might ask for it.

Since that year the outside mailing list has grown by leaps and bounds. Today it numbers some 6,000, including more than 850 schools, in most of which it is posted or read daily by the students.

A conservative estimate of the number of daily readers at present is 180,000.

The Bulletin goes to just about every state in the Union and to fifteen foreign countries. The details of its mailing, and the correspondence which it involves require a considerable portion of the time of 12 secretaries.

There, summarily, you have the story of the beginning and growth of the Religious Bulletin of Notre Dame.

Why is it read? You who read it should answer. Maybe one reason is that it tries to deal with questions vital to the students in the plain, direct language of the students themselves. The background of its arguments are the principles of Catholic faith and morals; and, as at least one man has arisen to remark, that's a pretty solid background.

Tomorrow at Mass and Holy Communion say a little prayer for the Bulletin that week after week it may grow better able for the work that it has to do. Very fittingly, too, you might remember Father O'Hara, founder of the Bulletin and its highly successful editor for more than a dozen years.

St. Joseph is the special patron of the Bulletin. Ask him to continue to prosper this little instrument of Our Lady's mission among men.