

University of Notre Dame  
RELIGIOUS BULLETIN  
November 6, 1937



## "Into Thy Hands, O Lord . . ."

Another really great Notre Dame boy has triumphed in death. This morning at 4:25, in St. Joseph's Hospital, Leonard Casassa, sophomore in commerce from Freeport, Long Island, died of peritonitis after an illness of ten days.

Leonard's condition had been satisfactory until last Wednesday evening when it became critical and, as the hours slipped by, grew gradually worse.

In the early morning hours of Thursday and Friday he often looked out the window of his room and hoped for the rising of the sun. "When the sun comes up I'm sure that I'll feel much better." Although this morning he missed the rising of the sun that brings light and cheer to earthly eyes, those who attended him are convinced that at 4:25 he saw instead the rising sun of everlasting happiness.

"As you live so you shall die." Leonard was a daily communicant and on his deathbed reverently received the Eucharistic God Who a few hours later was to be his judge. Leonard was, according to his friends, "ardent and courageous in his Faith, often taking the 'unpopular' side in arguments and discussions." On his deathbed there was no suggestion of fear. The faith that he had supported in his life was his stay in the moment of death. Constantly he offered himself and his sufferings in perfect resignation to God's holy will.

In Freshman Hall last year he was a promoter of spiritual bouquets whenever a freshman was ill in the hospital. Maybe that is why each of 100 of his classmates in Morrissey made a half-hour of adoration yesterday to help him. That is why, too, perhaps, so many have offered Masses and Holy Communions for his intention. "As you live so you shall die."

Only lips and a heart thoroughly versed in prayer could call on God and the saints as spontaneously and familiarly as he did on his deathbed. Ejaculations to Jesus, to Mary, to St. Joseph, to St. Jude sprang to his lips repeatedly.

Once when his temperature was high and his strength was slipping he faltered in a favorite prayer to St. Jude. Then he asked for his wallet, wherein he kept a leaflet of devotions to St. Jude. There in the wallet also were a Sacred Heart badge, a leaflet with a picture and prayers in honor of the crucifixion, and a tiny clipping on Kindness taken from a **Religious Bulletin** of last year. These treasures, which Leonard had never intended for others' eyes, gave an honest picture of where Leonard's heart had been, of the piety and genuineness of his life. "As you live so you shall die."

His good mother and father and sister, who were with him at the last, and his two brothers and his sister at home will be comforted in knowing that the students and faculty of Notre Dame will hold Leonard in their prayers and in their affections as a chosen one of Notre Dame.

The student Mass for him will be offered in the main church Monday at 6:25. Every student of the University is asked to attend.



**Prayers:** (Deceased) Husband of Mrs. Margaret Anglin Hall, Lactare Medalist, 1927; (ill) Ed Schreiber (Zahn).