

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 13, 1940

Thanks for the Privilege of Helping You, Bishop.

Dear Father Lynch:

The Bulletin of October 24, with its glad announcement of student co-operation with the spiritual work for the Army and Navy, filled me with joy and gratitude. Every bit of good reading matter will be put to excellent use. Every established post and station has its library, and the books are well thumbed. I shall ask the chaplains to make their wants known to the committee.

If my reply is tardy, please blame it on the war. The Bulletin arrived on time; I arrived some time later. This fall I have covered fifteen Army posts and Navy stations in the Canal Zone, and a similar number in this country on the west coast.

There is an excellent response to the ministrations of the Catholic chaplains -- in quality, if not always in quantity. The soldiers and sailors, like the Notre Dame students, need a great deal of personal attention. When they are moved too fast from post to post, or when chaplains are changed, work on the laggards must begin all over. Another group, like some seniors every year at Notre Dame, will come in time to take too much for granted -- and will have to learn again to love God as they did when they were freshmen -- and perhaps will have to learn the hard way.

Conversions to the faith are fairly numerous in the Army and Navy, and prayers for this intention are in order. Among the enlisted men there are tens of thousands of fine young men who have never in their lives had any religious instruction. The good example of some Catholic companion, or perhaps a word well placed, will send them to the chaplain for instruction -- and another soul is won for God.

Perhaps some of your readers will be interested in the fine work of the Chaplains' Aid Association. Some of the women may want to make altar linens or vestments for the chaplains. Others may want to contribute something to the purchase of a Mass kit. The complete kit costs \$150. We expect to add four hundred chaplains to the service by June, 1941, and the cost of outfitting these priests is very great.

Persons interested in this work may write directly to the Chaplains' Aid Association, 401 West 59th St., New York. If they prefer to send donations to the Prefect of Religion, I am sure that your big heart can take on this additional task. If donations are sent to me, their acknowledgement may be delayed, since I am away so often.

It is always a pleasure to find a Notre Dame man in camp, and I have found many of them. Thanks be to God, they are a source of edification, and most of them show a strong missionary spirit. Blessed is the chaplain who has a few good missionaries among his men -- he may never have a minute to himself, but he has the great spiritual satisfaction of an abundant harvest of souls for God.

God bless you and your boys, Father, and further your good works. We hate to think of war, and we don't want any of our fine boys to have to sacrifice their lives. But if it becomes necessary for any of your boys to serve, I know that they will go willingly. They have the advantage of knowing that sacrifice is the essence of Christianity. My great hope is that when any Notre Dame men are called, they will make every effort to keep up daily Communion. A phalanx of daily Communicants in an army camp is a tower of strength, not only for that camp but for the nation. We expect Notre Dame men to do a Notre Dame job.

John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.

PRAYERS. Deceased: Grandmother of Paul Larson, (Z); Grandmother of N. Haasen, (Cav); Friend of W. Meier, (Dil); Friend of Paul Scully, (W); Friend of Dave Curtin, (B-P).