

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
September 16, 1941

WELCOME TO THE FRESHMEN !

When you register at Notre Dame you become a member not just of a University, but of that great family of Notre Dame of which Our Lady, The Mother of God - she who is on the top of the Dome and down at the Grotto - is the mother of us all, Catholic or non-Catholic.

The first few days you may be confused at times, you'll have questions, you may be a little homesick (which, after all, only shows you come from an excellent home) - and you'll wonder where you can turn. That's what the priests and brothers are here for. Turn to them. They have consecrated their lives to the care of the most valuable, priceless things on earth - your souls, and also your minds and bodies.

You can also ask those upper-class Catholic Action men who have returned early to help you and to get you settled. You can approach too and very freely any student on the campus to ask questions - and he will help you in Notre Dame fashion. There are no distinctions here, when charity and helping are concerned, between upper and lower classes, rich or poor, Catholic or non-Catholic.

There are no distinctions at Notre Dame. There can't be when we all have one mother, she who watches over us from the Dome and the Grotto (down behind the Church, in case you don't know.) Be sure to visit it early and consecrate your years here to her.

And incidentally help your fellow freshmen: get acquainted by just walking up and telling him your name and where you hail from. You don't have to be introduced.

Pick your companions, close companions wisely. Notre Dame is known more than other colleges for the enduring friendships formed here. Pick only the best - and the best are here. Pick those who keep you reaching, reaching up to the ideals implanted at home.

You'll be confused, discouraged, sometimes until you get your bearings. Remember most things straighten out with patience and time - and meantime rely on and talk to as friends - two friends who are never too busy, never too worried, never too distant to listen to you, to share your worries, to strengthen and refresh you: two friends who will never let you down - Christ in the Eucharist and Our Lady at the Grotto.

Thousands of well-intentioned, bewildered, maybe awkward freshmen have entered Notre Dame in its 99 years. If faithful and devoted to these two friends, Christ and Our Lady, then four years hence you'll go out grown something like those trees nearest Our Lady at the Grotto. Four years hence may you be staunch, straight, clean-limbed, with your head and eyes up, with your feet solidly on the ground, rooted firmly in character, healthy in soul, mind and body.

Be sure to drop over and see FR. JOHN HALEY 107 CAVANAUGH HALL whose exclusive duty as assistant-Prefect of Religion is to serve you and help you. You don't have to be introduced. Go over to get a medal or just to ask questions, or just to smoke, or all three.

We'll be seeing all of you at the Opening Mass, this Sunday, at 8:30 in the Main Church, Sacred Heart Church. That Mass is especially for Freshmen and you'll hear the President, Father J. Hugh O'Donnell, tell you in his sermon what Notre Dame means.

And when you say "Goodbye" to Dad or Mother as they leave or when you first write home, tell them not to worry - that you have a Divine Friend and a Mother here who will watch out for you.

Sincerely,

John P. Lynch, C.S.C.
Prefect of Religion