

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 31, 1942

An N.D. Man Writes From Camp In Carolina.

Dear Father,

The last time I wrote I was pretty green, just starting out on this new and different life. Since then I have come along quite well. I was made Corporal the 22nd of January, and on the 1st of February I made Sergeant in just 10 days, which is doing very well.

While these promotions have all brought a raise in pay, I haven't seen any of it as yet. But the minute I do I will send you my contribution for the War Charities. Believe me, Father, until you actually are taken away from Notre Dame and all the opportunities She offers, you can't really appreciate our Catholic way of life for all that it is. You know, Father, I have many, many friends here, and they are good fellows. But they josh about my having led a cloistered life, and my ignorance of what it is all about. Now while I was at Notre Dame, I knew as much and was as wise as the wisest. But we can all read the books, we can all join and take part in the bull sessions, and pretend to know it all. But believe me, until the average Notre Dame student is taken out of that life that he thinks is worldly wise and comes face to face with the real thing, he will never realize what a great treasure is his.

Some of us here are kidded a lot about our principles. We are green they say. "They'll learn." You know, it's funny, while they chide me, and say, "At your age, where have you been all your life", those same men are recommending me day after day for promotion. I think your answer lies there. Let them talk, they know who is right, and by the promotions they manifest that knowledge. Oh, I thank God every night for the opportunities He has given me, for I know that if I hadn't had it pounded into me until I had the light to see what was right myself, I, too, would have been among them. And I know they are not happy.

We have a new bunch of recruits in here from Pennsylvania and New York and there are many Catholics among them. Last week one approached me on the idea of a Holy Name Society being organized here. We are going to get started. They have put me up for president, but because I plan to leave so soon, I can only help them get started. I'm sure they will get going. Nothing like a good bunch of northern Irish Catholics among a lot of Southerners for fireworks.

I read in the Bulletin and the Scholastic that the students are really in a muddle over all this. Of course, I can see how they would be. But I'll bet that it will be one of the hardest jobs you or anyone else has ever had to do to bring home to those fellows that this is the real thing. I doubt if but a handful realize what war is, and what it means. I know I doubt if I do. Those fellows will be a hard bunch to teach. The sudden change in their plans will be hard to take, some may not be able to graduate. But somehow they MUST realize what this is all about, that it is not the time to be selfish. Am I wrong? Do they know enough about what is going on to put their own advancement aside for a while. If they do, hats off to them.

Most sincerely,

Frank

PRAYERS: (Deceased) grandmothers of Bob Gardner (Dil) and Bill Boss (Morr); George Costello. (Ill) mother of Hugh Mallon (Wal); Miss Elizabeth Doran. Eight special intentions.