

N.D. World War II Dead
6. Joseph Foley '37
Rosary Sat. 11:00 for him.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 6, 1942

On Saturday Rosary and
Benediction at 11:30,
for Poor Souls.

Farewell Letter of Wasp Commander To Son.

Five-year-old Jackie Shea has a letter he will treasure. It was written to him by his father Lieut. Commander John J. Shea who is reported "missing in action" after being last seen at his post on the aircraft carrier Wasp just before one of the explosions which took her life.

"Dear Jackie:

"This is the first letter I have ever written directly to my little son and I am thrilled to know you can read it all by yourself. If you miss some of the words I am sure it will be because I do not write very plainly. Mother will help you, in that case, I am sure.

"It is too bad this war could not have been delayed a few more years so that I could grow up again with you and do with you all the things I planned to do when you were old enough to go to school. I thought how nice it would be for me to come home early in the afternoon and play ball with you and go mountain climbing and see the trees and brooks and learn all about woodcraft, hunting, fishing, swimming and other things like that.

"When you are a little bigger, you will know why your Daddy is not home so much anymore. You know we have a big country, and we have ideas as to how people should live and enjoy the riches of it, and how each is born with equal rights to life, freedom and the pursuit of happiness.

"Unfortunately, there are some countries in the world where they don't have these ideals, where a boy cannot grow up to be what he wants to be with no limit on his opportunities to be a great man, such as a great priest, statesman, doctor, soldier, business man, etc.

"Because there are people and countries who want to change our nation, its ideals, form of government and way of life, we must leave our homes and families to fight. Fighting for the defense of our country, ideals, homes and honor is an honor and duty which your Daddy has to do before he can come home to settle down with you and mother.

"In the meantime, take good care of mother. Be a good boy, and grow up to be a good young man. Study hard when you go to school. Be a leader in everything good in life. Be a good Catholic and you can't help being a good American. Play fair always. Strive to win, but if you must lose, lose like a gentleman, and a good sportsman. Don't ever be a quitter. Get all the education you can.

"Stay close to mother and follow her advice.

"If I don't get back, you will have to be mother's protector, because you will be the only one she has. You must grow up to take my place as well as your own in her life and heart.

"Last of all, don't ever forget your Daddy. Pray for him to come back, and if it is God's will that he does not, be the kind of a boy and man your Daddy wants you to be.

"Kiss mother for me every night. Goodbye for now."

BENEDICTION TONIGHT 6:45 and 7:15.