

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 11, 1943

Dining Hall Thefts.

The Bulletin Monday night about "Return Stolen Goods" aimed at awaking a few consciences. And it might be well to repeat: objects of value taken from students constitute matter for mortal sin. All stolen goods must be returned immediately.

And this Bulletin also is meant to awaken a few more consciences, namely those of the Dining Hall tableware borrowers (?).

Briefly, it is an act of theft to take tableware from the Dining Hall : knives, forks, spoons, glasses, coffee pots, platters, etc. If you have any such article in your possession, in your room or elsewhere, you have an obligation in justice to return it immediately.

This is not borrowing. This is theft. You will find no Catholic theologian to defend the practice. The lifting in some cases is not so petty. The accumulation of objects can coalesce to constitute matter for mortal sin.

You have no permission to borrow objects for a time, and there is no such thing as presuming permission. Read the Student Manual again.

All articles taken from the Dining Hall must be returned without delay. If the goods are retained without legitimate authorization, the holder is in bad faith. He has ill-gotten goods. The act is contrary to justice, and it is sinful.

And while you are thinking along the lines of justice, let your conscience judge whether you are guilty of any of these illicit practices: (non-boarders) eating in the Dining Hall; negligence and carelessness in student employment; damaging room furniture, walls, classroom equipment, the property of others; skipping out of drug stores without paying checks.

God is just. " Be ye perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." Love of neighbor embraces a sense of responsibility towards his goods. Examine your conscience tonight, and this time don't skip the Seventh Commandment.

The Grotto.

"The name of Thomas Carroll is inseparably linked with one of Notre Dame's loveliest spots, the Grotto. Thomas Carroll was a student at Notre Dame in 1855. He became a priest in 1859 and entered the Congregation of Holy Cross. Some years later, he joined the diocese of Erie. But he never forgot Notre Dame. One day, when visiting the University, he was walking around the grounds with Father Corby. Then he divulged his idea of erecting here at Notre Dame a replica of the grotto at Lourdes. The two priests discussed the question of a likely site. It was finally determined that it should be erected just west of the presbytery.

"In the spring of 1896 workmen came with picks and shovels and dug the foundations. The grotto was constructed of huge boulders, some of them weighing two or three tons. A statue of Our Lady of Lourdes was placed in a niche at the right, and facing her, on the pavement below, a replica of St. Bernadette. From that moment, the Grotto became an integral part of Notre Dame life. The benefactor whose generosity made it possible would rejoice if he could see the steady procession of students who come to kneel before Our Lady's grace." (Notre Dame - One Hundred Years)