

Msgr. Fulton Sheen
speaks Thurs. and Fri.
at 8:00 in Drill Hall . . .

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
September 8, 1943

Bring your non-Catholic
friends both nights.
Thurs: "Men of Good Will".

The Recent Tragedy.

It was only a line. It was set in the midst of the two column newspaper account of the train wreck Monday evening outside Philadelphia, the accident in which the death total may reach one hundred and fifty. But that line told a story itself.

"Approximately forty priests from churches near the scene arrived after the crash to administer last rites to the dying."

The Catholic, at least, knows what that meant. Priests working with rescue crews, absolving the sins of those who were injured, anointing those who were dying or in a serious condition, consoling and helping everyone in the wreck, Catholic and non-Catholic.

There was work that those priests did that the crowd could not see nor estimate. No one can see the effect of sacramental absolution; it wipes away the hidden guilt of sin from the soul. It gives the sick and dying consolation that no medicine can produce.

Those priests administered the Sacrament of Extreme Unction, another Sacrament which forgives sins; and more, it prepares one for death. The Catholic who has received the Last Anointing is confident that Christ has prepared him for the trials and suffering of that awful moment. The knowledge that a priest is at the bedside makes a world of difference to a soul faced with the possibility of death. There were people in that accident who must have thanked God for having given priests to the world.

Catholics wear a medal about their neck. Many search until they find a medal with this petition stamped across the back: "In case of accident, call a priest". Their faith tells them that a priest has something to give.

The non-Catholics who witnessed the rescue work at the scene of the tragedy must have seen clearly that the Church is not merely a society for ruling Her members but also a Mother who hurries to provide spiritual help for her children in time of their need.

The Catholic, strong in faith, calls the priest before the doctor in times of stress.

The Catholic will promote vocations to the priesthood by encouraging young men to follow Christ and by giving financial support to the education of seminarians.

The Catholic will not forget to pray for that growing body of Army and Navy chaplains who are following their boys to the end of the world that they may have a priest who brings them Christ, His consoling words and above all, His strengthening grace in the Sacraments. The death of a single priest is a loss to over a thousand fighting men. In our Memento at Mass we must not forget to pray for the protection of our priests.

Soldier Quote.

"I may seem to harp on this subject too much but I can't help it. You'll never know how much my faith has meant to me since I've joined the Army. I've been saying the Miraculous Medal Novena every night since I put on the uniform. It seems to make every trial or trouble of the day vanish. Faith is really wonderful."

PRAYERS: (deceased) grandmother of Midshipman Murphy (ND V-7). (I11) Ralph Collins; Brother Daniel, C.S.C.; Two Special Intentions.