

"May I be willing to
obey on account of Thee."
St. Augustine.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
September 17, 1943

Killed in Sicily: Lieut
Arthur Chadwick. '36,
N.D.'s 60th gold star.

Wanted: Men With 20-20 Vision.

Fighting men must have sharp eyes and clear vision. In the Army and Navy if a man can read the eye chart from twenty paces with both eyes, he has perfect vision; 20-20 is the military manner of expressing it. Men with poor eyesight have no place in the fighting forces.

A Catholic fighting man has another set of eyes, the eyes of Faith, and they must be perfect, 20-20. Not everyone has been granted the favor of the extra vision given by God. Baptism brought the eye of Faith. With it one is able to see invisible supernatural realities and to know and understand things that are unseen.

Every day the news columns carry stories of fighting men who are living their Faith.

1. A Catholic chaplain tells the story of an air raid on the battle front. The attack came suddenly. The chaplain dug a hole in the ground and hid the Blessed Sacrament in it to prevent desecration during the battle and possible theft and sacrilege in the event the enemy were victorious. A furious fight took place. After caring for the injured men and the dying, the chaplain returned to replace the consecrated Hosts in the tabernacle. At the hideout he met a spectacle of Faith. Soldiers were on their knees around the Real Presence adoring Our Lord their King and Savior.
2. A young American airman wrote a letter to his father two days before his death in action. The letter reveals the thoughts of heaven and eternity which constantly guided the young man's course through life. A Squadron Leader had spoken to the Catholic about a farewell note he had written with the text: "Cheerio, darling, have a good time!". The Catholic airman wrote back to his parents: "My philosophy does not need anything of that sort. Life at the moment is full. If it should suddenly stop and I, by the grace of God be worthy of the call, I should be excited and happy at the prospects. Why, for those few years, among countless thousands, when I shall not see you, should I say farewell?"
3. From New Guinea: "When you are at the front lines, the only thing you have time for is fighting and praying. The amazing thing about it is that you do both at the same time and harder than you would think possible. Thank God, I'm alive and still appreciating the gift of the True Faith -- the Catholic Church."

Blind Soldiers.

There are soldiers of Jesus Christ who are losing their eyesight. Christ is really present in the Blessed Sacrament. Why aren't they often seen visiting Christ in their churches and chapels? Men who are losing their vision cannot see that Our Lord lives in his neighbor and so he does not manifest much thoughtfulness and consideration for those who work and live with him. The blind pray little, they miss Sunday Mass, often arrive late at Mass, and pay little heed to the God in whom they live and move and have their whole being. One cause of blindness is impurity. St. Paul says: "The sensual man perceiveth not these things that are of the spirit of God; for it is foolishness to him and he cannot understand."

Look to your eyes. "Faith without works is dead." The longer a man remains in mortal sin, the more obscure his vision becomes. The more a Catholic exercises his faith by Mass and Holy Communion, the more he approaches 20-20 vision, the better soldier he becomes.