

Confessions before
departing: Sorin and
B-P all A.M. Tues. and
Wed. and at P.M. Masses.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 25, 1943

A Letter From The Chaplain.

Dear Men: Sunday morning when I made the announcement about the death of Private Vit Cappello, a number of men in the congregation turned in astonishment to their pals beside them. Vit left them only last year and his memory was still fresh in their minds. His death in action in Sicily August 3 was Vit's last act of charity, the perfect act, "to die for a friend". There were many hidden acts of charity in Vit's life, and these will accompany him to heaven.

The Church should be packed Tuesday evening after chow, 6:30 P.M. for the closing of the Rosary Devotions. The closing Rosary will be offered for the men who are being transferred to other stations. We must send them off with the best token of our friendship, namely, prayer. When you hear the church bells reminding you of the devotion, head towards the Church, and bring with you all the Catholics you meet on the way. For you, the Rosary on Tuesday evening should also be an act of gratitude for favors received during the semester, especially during the exams.

Don't leave the campus without a rosary in your pocket. There are rosaries, blessed and indulgenced, at the Pamphlet Racks. Use the Rosary. Grab it when tempted. When traveling in the city bus or on the train, take it out and say a decade or two. It's a great act of charity merely to carry the rosary on your person. Even though you don't advert to the rosary, you gain an indulgence of 50 days for a Poor Soul every day you carry it with you. If you want to do something worthwhile and manly, gather the family around you when home and lead them in the family rosary for peace and for the men who have died in the Service.

Just a word to the men who are transferring to other stations. The first items heading your list of persons and things to see at the new station are the chaplain and his chapel and the Notre Dame men on the lot. Post a notice somewhere that you are on board ship and that you want to meet the Notre Damers. Have some information ready for these men you meet. They are hungry for campus news. Make week day Mass part of your daily program, where that is possible. You will find Mass in all theatres of war.

I must make a frank admission. Not all the men leaving the campus for vacation and new surroundings are in good spiritual condition. A few need confession; others need a change of attitude. These men may have to learn the hard way, through the horrors of actual combat. God may use a wound or two to awaken them to a conviction that sin does not pay, and that the service of Our Lord pays better dividends. When the prodigal returns, he should play fair, and explain to his confessor that no priest or chaplain is to blame for his state, since every opportunity was offered at Notre Dame.

You must assist at Mass next Sunday and Monday. Monday, November 1, is a Holy Day of obligation, the Feast of All Saints. Though Tuesday of next week is not a day of obligation, you should make every effort to be present at Mass. November 2 is All Souls Day. Your love for departed relatives and friends will inspire you to make the sacrifices necessary to assist at one or at all of the three Masses every priest is permitted to say on that day.

The uniform will prompt many people to bestow favors upon you. Express your gratitude, not forgetting that the possible sacrifice involved in the kindness shown you.

All the priests, brothers and sisters wish you a blessed vacation.

Father Craddick, C.S.C.,
Catholic Chaplain

PRAYERS: (deceased) John J. Gehring; Robert Hannon; Mrs. Chas. Du Wan, sister of Fr. Joseph McGuire, C.S.C. (Ill) Tom Ryan, nightwatchman, operation. 2 Spec. Intentions.