

(FOR CATHOLIC STUDENTS AT NOTRE DAME)

Start Novena for Parents.	University of Notre Dame	Bouquet Cards not mention-
<u>Confessions:</u> at P.M. Masses,	Religious Bulletin	ing Father or Mother at
and in Sorin and B-P in Eve.	December 15, 1943	rack in Sorin Hall.

Your Brothers.

There arrived in the mail yesterday morning a Christmas greeting card for you. It came from Father Flanagan's boys, the Men of Boys Town. The painting on the card and the caption beneath give the meaning of Christmas. The ground is covered with snow, and the flakes are still falling. In the background is one of the buildings at Boys Town. In the foreground stands a hatless lad of about ten or eleven with a most captivating smile. On his back he carries a youngster of maybe five or six, and his human burden is dead asleep with his head resting peacefully on the shoulder of the carrier and his arms locked tightly about the neck of the boy who has generously given him a lift.

Beneath the painting there are two lines, the words of the lad of ten. At first you wonder what reference his phrases have to Christmas and to Christ. With a little thought you catch their Christian significance. This is what the lad says:

"He ain't heavy, Father. . .
he's m' brother!"

Who wouldn't carry his own blood brother? He may be a heavy little, but the fact that he is my brother gives added inspiration and carrying power.

And there is something I should not forget about myself. I am being carried. My big brother is carrying me. Isn't Christ my blood brother? Doesn't His divine grace, His life, run through my soul? He carries me in more ways than one, giving me inspirations, coaxing me to good works, supporting me in virtue. He is the Good Shepherd and I am mindful that I am the sheep He spoke about: "What man of you having a hundred sheep, and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the desert, and go after that which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it upon his shoulders rejoicing." He has carried me, and more than once.

My Big Brother is a Good Shepherd to me, and He wants me to be a Good Shepherd to my brothers around me. Those fellows who study, work and play around me are really my brothers, in Christ. What I must see more and more clearly is that Our Lord is giving them to me to carry. I am to be an influence on the people I meet and live with. How else interpret the words of Christ: "You are the light of the world. . . let your light shine before men, in order that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Who are you to carry in Our Lord's plan of things? Certainly your roommate is your brother, and you are to be an inspiration and support to him. Maybe he is not much of a burden to carry; maybe he is carrying you. Nevertheless, your charity, patience, zeal in study, purity of speech, your thoughtfulness and courtesy will attract those who live and work with you more closely to Christ. Just remember the fellow beside you in the classroom, in rank, at the dinner table, is a blood brother of Christ, and therefore your brother, and the burden will be light.

During the Christmas week end, be the Good Shepherd. Lead others to places of legitimate amusement, introduce your guests to good girls, manifest respect for womanhood in your speech and your actions. Others will be strong only in the light you shine before them.

PRAYERS: Missing in action: brother of Fred Krantz; (deceased) brother of Lieut. John E. Kelly, '37; Ensign Joseph Volpe; friend of Russ Bragdon (Dil); mother of Wm Dooley of the Publication Office; James A. Kaufman '35 killed in Italy: Pvt. Tom Walsh, cousin of Brother Jerome Francis, C.S.C.