

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

You need Mass and
Communion. Have you
seen your chapel yet?

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
July 12, 1944

Confessions: during
the Afternoon Mass and
in Basement Chapel
at 6:30 P.M.

He Met The Pope.

If you are wondering what is endearing Pope Pius XII in the hearts of both Catholics and non-Catholics, then read this letter written by a Notre Dame man, Lieut. Austin Mearns, '36, of Flushing, New York. The Holy Father has dropped many formalities during these war days that he might keep in close contact with his children. He is a busy man. On his desk are problems involving relations with all the nations of the world. His name is associated with peace, the alleviation of suffering and charity towards war victims. The Pope has the title of "The Servant of the Servants of God". His kindness towards this army man demonstrates that it is no empty phrase.

"When we passed St. Peter's, I took off alone to see the Pope. I contacted a bishop who could speak English. I told him I was a Notre Dame graduate, showed him my Notre Dame ring and told him I had met His Holiness when he was at Notre Dame in 1936, and asked for an audience. He took me in to see the Secretary of State, who in turn took me in to see the Pope. His Holiness wore a pure white robe with a purple sash. We chatted for almost seven minutes. The first words he said were, 'Welcome to Rome, son.' Then we shook hands.

"I made quite a contrast with His Holiness -- my trousers torn, unshaven, dirty, mud on my shoes, and what not. People come from all over the world just to see, not talk with, the Pope, and along comes a dirty, unshaven infantry lieutenant who talks to him for seven minutes! When His Holiness finished, he blessed me and I departed. Outside, I jumped into my jeep and caught up with my platoon before they reached the outskirts. In one hour, I had seen what some people never see in a lifetime."

Come In For Repairs.

Souls as well as broken-down bodies and cracked-up cars need to "get fixed up". Sin causes terrible accidents, sometimes fatal ones, unless the patient is quickly brought to an experienced surgeon. Maybe you need fixing up because of some weakness, some mortal sin, which has overcome you.

Christ is the surgeon who can repair the broken-down virtues in your soul. His is a divine touch. He has saved the lives of many souls when death seemed almost certain. Mary Magdalen, the prostitute, for instance, and the thief on Calvary.

Christ performs the divine operation in the confessional. If you need His ministrations, you should visit Him today. There is danger in waiting, and unhappiness. Two minutes with Our Blessed Savior and his representative the priest, and you are a man again, for sin makes you less a man, you know.

Of course, if you come in for fixing, it is implied that you want to stay fixed. You won't stay fixed if you play around with drinking companions, loose women, and impurity. In Holy Communion Christ is the Divine Physician administering the medicine that will keep you in perfect spiritual health. Frequent reception of Holy Communion makes strong men and leaders.

Worried?

If you have a problem which looks serious to you and you can't solve it within twenty-four hours, then take it to a priest. Students have cracked up spiritually and mentally because they were not humble enough to admit they needed help. The Chaplains are in their offices all morning and all evening, after 7:30 P.M.