

Leave names of sick and
wounded in envelope on
Bulletin Board

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 30, 1945

They will be left at Grotto
during Novena for Sick,
which starts Friday(1st Fri.)

Suggestion For Draftees and Servicemen.

During the battle of Bataan, a man was needed for a perilous mission. The Commanding Officer lined up a company of his men and asked for a volunteer. Anyone willing to serve was instructed to step forward two paces from the line.

The officer glanced for a second at a memorandum in his hand; then looking up, was shocked and disappointed to see the ranks unbroken. "What," he said unbelievably, "not a single man!"

"You do not understand, sir," said an aide at his elbow, "the whole line has stepped forward two paces."

Many young men look upon service in the armed forces as an adventure. Others, more serious, consider it as a necessary job to be done in a hurry. Life in uniform is far more than all this -- it is a religious act. A member of the army, navy, marine or air corps is in the service of his country. That country is not something intangible. A country is composed of real living persons, men, women and children. To fight for one's country is to fight for them, your neighbors, to offer them protection. That is noble in the eyes of men and in the eyes of God. God calls it charity. And charity heads the list of religious virtues.

In a true sense, God is asking every uniformed man to volunteer for the service of his neighbor. One should, therefore, consciously and deliberately, and with a heart filled with the love of Christ, "step forward two paces" and tell Christ, "I accept this mission and whatever it may bring."

There should be a little ceremony about this acceptance; it should be two-fold. The draftee, or the serviceman who has never made a formal acceptance of his service as an act of charity, should enter the chapel in his hall and kneel before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. There in the presence of the Supreme Commanding Officer he should offer to Christ all his future work in the armed forces. This is not all. The King of Kings has a Queen. His mother. Notre Dame students find her at the Grotto. So the draftee should make a last visit to Our Lady and dedicate his whole life to her. Whatever else may be said in that private consecration to Our Lady, there must be a promise made to her -- the promise to trust completely in her help no matter how untoward the circumstances.

But it is easy to forget one's dedication, no matter how sincere it was made. So a serviceman should have reminders of what he did in the chapel and at the Grotto. A rosary carried in the pocket helps. A Military Missal and Readings from the New Testament will place the words and example of Christ before one's mind, thereby keeping the serviceman convinced of the nobility of his dedication. All these helpful articles can be picked up in the Office of the Prefect of Religion. Visit one of the Prefects before you leave (141 Sorin or 107 Kavanaugh). The Special Blessing which Father Craddick or Father Simonitsch will give you will draw down God's blessing on your mind, heart, soul and body. It's worth receiving.

Many draftees have found a General Confession most beneficial. Through a confession of their life they buried the past forever, and thus made it easier to take up their new duties and obligations with a fearless heart. If you know you are entering the service for certain at the end of the semester, you should drop in for your spiritual equipment NOW.

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Joseph Kissling, '28 (4th Anniv); Brother Adhemar, C.S.C.; son of Alex Penkala (Sorin Janitor), killed in action. (111) Lieut. Col. Robert Riordan, '24 (former Registrar), operation; brother of Joe Zurschmiede (.11), accident in France; mother of Lou Stone, ex. '45; cousin of Jim Burke (2). 3 Spec. Intentions.