

Sign up for a period  
of Adoration during  
FORTY HOURS.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
February 6, 1945

No 9:00 Mass Sun. (11th).  
Forty Hours Devotion will  
begin with 8:30 Mass.

"Worth His Weight In Gold."

Two letters arrived at Notre Dame recently. They tell you what others expect of you as a Notre Dame student. You are splendidly equipped in virtue of your foundation in Catholic principles, your religious opportunities at the University, your companions and surroundings to be a source of immense good to individuals and groups with which you associate. The first letter is from a Chaplain with the Fleet. The other, also by a Chaplain, was found in the Marianist, a publication of Dayton University.

"It may be of interest to you, that during my eighteen months in the service, I have met many Notre Dame graduates. Almost to a man, they have been outstanding. Of course, we priests have always known that Notre Dame men are amongst the finest Catholic laymen, but most of the lads in the service associate the name of your fair university only with football. Now they are beginning to realize that you specialize in turning out educated Catholic gentlemen, who have a deep love of God, His Mother, the Church and the University. It has been our experience that one good Catholic layman is worth his weight in gold."

"In my experience I would say that there has been a slight numerical increase in those who attend Holy Mass and in those who make their Easter Duty. I doubt whether 40% of our Catholic boys in the army attend Sunday Mass. Less than 30% make their Easter Duty.

"Where we have gained enormously -- and to me this is really important -- is: good Catholics have become better Catholics. The faithful few have made marked progress in their spiritual lives.

"And now for a brighter and very instructive side of the serviceman vs. religious problem. My chaplain friend is very enlightening: 'I am convinced,' he writes, 'that the war has shown us clearly that the way to inculcate and foster regard for religious duty is by Catholic education. . . This war has thrilled the priest who has been a teacher in a Catholic school. He sees the good and far-reaching results of his efforts and of the Catholic system. As a teacher I have often wondered how solid our teaching really is: The war shows that education has paid off at the first level - the home - the family - good parents - good surroundings . . . .'

"I have found that the best boys, and, by the best I mean the most virtuous, the most pious, the most aggressive, and as a consequence wielding the most influence, to be those who have had Catholic grade school, high school, and college training. There are the boys, who for a time, and regretfully, have sown wild oats, but who have now learned and who do not, in consequence, deviate one bit from their Catholic and moral duty. More, they are APOSTLES! They are strong characters; completely above everyone else and they carry tremendous weight in a group. . . . In cases where a boy has come from a small Catholic college and therefore has had priests and Brothers for all his subjects, he is about the cream of the crop. If he comes from a big Catholic college with the little college atmosphere, he is even better because his social life has made him versatile in handling army situations. The graduates of Notre Dame University have been the most outstanding Catholics I have met. The practice of frequent daily Communion as fostered at this University has declared enormous dividends. These boys are leaders and are proud to be Catholics."

PRAYERS: (deceased) friend of George Weiss (Sor); brother of Tom Dooley HA2/c, ex.46; Mrs. Mary Cunningham, friend of Jack Murphy (Sor); Capt. Robert J. Ameno, son-in-law of Postmaster General Frank Walker, killed in Belgium; Frank Plummer, friend of Jim Murray (Z), killed in action. (Ill) Richard J. Dunn, '13, father of Bill Dunn, ex."45.

40 HOURS (Sun.Mon.Tues.) Wed. is Ash Wed. (Lent begins) DON'T DELAY CONFESSION.