

Holy Day Masses. Besides
hall Mass, in Church at
5,6,7,8,9. Solemn Mass at 8.
7:20 Mass in Sorin.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 9, 1945

Novena for Pentecost begins
Friday . . . Confessions
tonight in Basement Chapel
at 6:30 and in Sorin and Cav.

An Answer For Anna Mae.

A letter from a young girl inspired this Bulletin. She has written to Notre Dame asking for information about Heaven. Her letter expresses the reason for her anxiety: "Will we know each other in Heaven? I have recently lost my brother in the Service, and also the boy to whom I have been engaged for more than two years. Both were killed on the battlefields, so maybe you can understand my desire to learn more about the Catholic doctrine of Heaven. This war has broken so many hearts. I feel sorry for those who are losing their loved ones . . . Anna Mae H."

Dear Anna Mae . . . The doctrine of Heaven is about love, so let me first speak about your love for your fiance. You found lovable qualities in that boy you were engaged to. You saw so much good in him that you were thrilled in being in love with him. Love did something to your whole being. You were so attracted to his good qualities, and he to yours, that you two felt that life would not be complete unless you possessed one another forever on earth in marriage. You can say the same about all your true earthly loves, like your love for your mother and your brother. In them too you saw qualities that drew you to them, and in being drawn you received deep satisfaction and contentment.

Never forget these love affairs. They are samples of what Heaven is like. For Heaven is a love affair with God. God possesses an infinite number of good qualities. When we see Him face to face we will be enraptured by His Beauty, Goodness and loveliness, and all his other attributes. In possessing Him, our hearts and all our faculties will be completely satisfied. Too many people think of Heaven as sort of a Radio City, a place that God has filled with many wonderful objects to satisfy all our wants to the point of ecstasy. God, in this erroneous view of heaven, is outside of all this, looking in, as it were. This is not Heaven that God has revealed to us. Heaven is living in God's home with Him. He Himself is going to be our great love, our essential joy and satisfaction. Again, remember your earthly loves. If you discovered something in your fiance, your mother and father and brother to thrill you, how much more you will find in God who is Infinitely Perfect.

Life with God would suffice to thrill us for eternity. But God has chosen to make Heaven a Home where one lives not only with Him, but also with all His other children. In Heaven each soul will know and converse with one another. There will be an exchange of ideas and the enjoyment of one another's conversation. So when you get to heaven you will enjoy the company of your brother and your fiance, and the two of you can join Our Lord and Our Blessed Lady some heavenly night for a stroll. In Heaven you will live in the company of the angels too. Your Guardian Angel will tell you about all the dangers he helped you avoid and the good thoughts he sent to your mind. If you wish, you can ask St. Michael the Archangel to tell you about the time God commissioned him to put Lucifer and the other Bad Angels in hell. I suppose you are wondering how you will be able to speak to another person and to the angelic spirits in Heaven. Don't worry about that detail. God will take care of the matter without a bit of trouble.

Heaven is home not only for the soul, but also for the human body. The body will go Home after the Last Judgment, for then God will reform the body and reunite it to the soul. The resurrected body of those who are saved will be perfect. Parts destroyed or mutilated by accident or on the battlefield will be restored. There will be no ugliness of any sort, and there will be a beauty about it. Since we will have our eyes, and lips, will be able to see this human body of ours and of others and we will be able to speak to everyone.

This is Heaven, Anna Mae, where your brother and fiance are now. Keep serving God with a good heart and you will meet them there. I'll look for you when I get there. Perhaps you will have time to show me around, and to tell me how much your missouri was like Heaven.