

A half-hour of
Adoration will bring
you many blessings.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 20, 1947

(Operation) Ray Spoon,
Morrissey Hall, Sat.
night, appendectomy

This is Christian Marriage.

"Dear Father: One week ago yesterday, I lost my wife because of the birth of our fourth child. I feel that never again will I be truly happy just as I was always puzzled by life before I knew her. What I want to tell you is what eleven years with a good and happy woman can do for a man.

"Nan joined the Catholic Church a short time before we were married. I did not ask her to do it, and did not know she intended to become a convert until after she had arranged to take instructions. We were married on May 29, 1936, and the following April we had a baby we both wanted very much. Eighteen months later another was born, and then in two years we had our third.

"When we wanted a piece of furniture or clothing we would have to wait, sometimes for months, but we always had a comfortable home, plenty of food, and most of all, we were very happy.

"As the years went on, we prospered to a certain degree. We had enough to take good care of the children and to buy a few of the things we had done without. Whenever we had more she would always mention that we could now give more to the church and to charity.

"Last year our youngest entered school and Nan wanted someone at home on whom to bestow her limitless love. We hoped and prayed for another baby. She was happy all during the months of waiting. During the last few months she wanted to talk to me more than ever before. I believe I loved her more and showed her more small attentions those last few weeks than ever before.

"On the morning of October 2nd we went to the hospital at one in the morning--both in high spirits and never thinking that things would not go well as they always had before. The baby was born, but there were difficulties that not even an operation and many transfusions could correct. That evening at 7:15 I lost her.

"When I met her I was a young man who caroused a bit and made his Easter Duty as duty. When I lost her I had arrived at middle age with a knowledge that all things come from God and that He allows us to be with people and to have things only so long as it fits His plan. She left me with three children, Ellen 10, Robert 8, John 7 and the infant Michael. The older three believe in God, and that He has taken their mother to Heaven; so do I.

"Please pray for her, for the children and for me that I may be able to raise them as she would have done if she could have been with us.

---Bob

P.S. Nan received the Last Sacraments, and we who are here will be at Communion Sunday and I hope on every Sunday for the rest of our lives.

This letter received by the Prefect of Religion will make you think-about your girl: does she have those qualities that make for a good wife and mother, those qualities possessed by Nan--about yourself: are you praying for a girl like Nan--about marriage; are you convinced that with the right girl you can be tremendously happy? Pray for Nan, even though you, like her children, believe she is in Heaven.