

Jim Costin, S. Bend
Trib Sport Editor
died Sunday.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin

(deceased) father of
John Frankel (OC).
Eight Special Intentions.

May 9, 1949

The Crying Statue.

The students who went to the movies in Washington Hall last Saturday night saw, in a newsreel, Shirley Anne Martin, the eleven-year-old Syracuse girl who made the national news with her weeping statue. Shirley found the head of a small plaster statue of St. Ann. When she kissed the head, tears would flow from the plaster eyes, a phenomenon that was witnessed on many days by reporters, priests, and people. The editor of the Syracuse Catholic Sun has this to say about the wonder.

"This is what the Church on April 15th said officially through Father Dillon (of the Syracuse Chancery): 'From the number of and character of the witness who have observed this phenomenon, it is certain that drops of liquid have appeared on the face of the statue when the young girl held it and kissed it. The explanation of the fact or its significance has not been established. The possibility of miracles (in general) is established beyond doubt. Whether this phenomenon is an instance of supernatural power at work has not been established.'

"The Church, simply, takes the case as it is. The Church is not scandalized. The Church is not filled with a sudden consent that God has worked a sign in Syracuse. The Church simply looks outward with calm, observing eyes and states a principle that is true...

"But there are a couple of other facts in the whole situation over the week.... Beyond the individual family, beyond any and all personal human lives, I think we ought to see the plain fact that there was very little prayer, or religion, or piety, if any, on Hawley Avenue (where the girl lives) or in the broadcasts, or in the publicity.

"People were not on their knees in the street. People did not strike their breasts and grieve for their sins. There was no spontaneous, public response in prayer and in humility. Petition to God was not lifted to Heaven. Lives were not manifestly reformed. Virtue was not resolved. The glory of God was not widely poured forth from hearts that were touched and quickened. When Bernadette began to visit the holy place at Lourdes the townfolk followed with rosaries in their hands. The prayers of Lourdes mounted with every week... The same prayerful response was also to be found in the people at Fatima.

"Now, let me be plain, I make neither comparison nor judgment; I merely observe that the souls of men are not largely nor conspicuously moved, as yet, by the events of the statue and the tears. I should add that the response of many, many humble people is always a criterion when the supernatural has happened and has been established to have happened in history.

"The lack of contentment is not caused, I think, by circumstances, nor even by the television and the photography. It comes of the general vacuum in which the event rests, the absence of prayers, the emptiness over the whole situation. There is a curiosity, even a kind of sensationalism here; but people miss the 'follow through,' the solid and awesome consequence which they feel ought to be..."

Saturday Night Accident.

As the Bulletin goes to press, Tony Ray (Dillon) is in a critical condition with a skull fracture and concussion. Bob Fitzpatrick (OC) is serious, with a broken back. Eugene Lutz (OC) has a broken shoulder. Blaire Gallagher and Howard Cook are back on the campus. Say an extra prayer for the quick recovery of all.