

An Alumnus Speaks His Mind.

"Dear Father: I happened to be at the 9 o'clock Mass several Sundays before Christmas when you put your cards on the altar rail. I am a Notre Dame graduate. As such I feel that all of us older alumni have learned to appreciate above all else the opportunities of grace that have been part and parcel of the N.D. way of life.

"I know that it takes a year or more for the sophisticates to snap out of it--it was that way when I went through. But the record you put before the students was unbelievable. I refer to the lack of get-up for the two Novenas--the Immaculate Conception and the one for Parents--which were THE TWO NOVENAS (together with Mother's Day) that none of us wanted to miss. Could it be that our lads of '49 and '50 do not have as strong temptations as we faced 20 years ago? The line-up of modern movies and plays as well as the muck and filth put out by our current newspapers and slick magazines would seem to dispute this.

"The way I see it, the present generation of too many Notre Dame MEN need another war or perhaps an atom bomb to snap them out of their lethargy. I had to go to the wars myself seven years ago and there were hundreds of Notre Dame men who made the supreme sacrifice in order that the MEN out there now might have their present opportunities...Speaking of the war, there were a number of counterfeits plying their wares during World War II. I recall one joker out in the Northwest--called himself Major____. A pretty sharp-looking lad who made the social rounds and hotel circuits, all decked out like a circus horse with medals and ribbons. He was wined and dined by the smart set who were taken in by his line of tripe. The Army finally caught up with the phony. He had purchased a uniform from an Army-Navy store and went to work on the Northwest 400.

"I don't see much difference between that phony and the Notre Dame phony. I notice in my perambulations about the local village hundreds of men wearing the Notre Dame across their chests and backs. In my book that always meant more than a Michigan or Butler or Northwestern trade mark.

"It seems to me that anyone wearing the livery of Our Lady's school who doesn't live out the Marian way of life on and off campus--well, he is just like another Major Joker....I hope what I've said will not disturb the all-right Joes who must be in the majority. It will be up to them to carry on the traditions of the City of the Blessed Sacrament located on the Campus of Our Lady." (Signed) _____

Another Alumnus Speaks.

"Dear Father: Your letter 'Dear Mary' in the January 6th Bulletin prompts this letter...If there was one thing that a lot of 'old men of '34' did, it was to build up a Bank Account in Heaven, with deposits of daily Communion, Grotto visits, Hours of Adoration, and Rosaries...We did not have a National Championship Football Team then--we had a National Depression. Maybe if the boys of today, and they aren't bad characters at that, could only see what we are doing with our Heavenly Bank Accounts, they would start depositing today.

"Now we 'old men of '34' have night vigils with sick children, moral and spiritual crisis in business, in our homes and in our civic and national lives--and we are glad to be able to draw on that account when we can't seem to find time to do the kind of praying current problems so urgently deserve...So tell the boys to start depositing. If they have no current problems, they'll have plenty before they're through.'----Bob H.-----'34.

Frank Finn, Jr., '49 Thanks You.

Before Christmas four Notre Dame graduates of '49 were in an auto accident. George Giragi and Jim Harding were killed, Frank Finn and Joseph Maloney are still convalescing...Frank writes: "Because I am an N.D. graduate, you asked the boys to remember me in their prayers. I am writing to thank them. I am sure their prayers were heard. I often read requests for prayers in the Bulletin. I didn't realize how much those prayers meant until I needed them. Give my regards to all the priests and Brothers."--F.Finn, '49.

Prayer: (deceased) sister of Tom Mascatello (Wal); uncle of J. Dobyms (Dil. Ill, Rev. Matthias Oswald, C.S.C.; Rev. B. Swaby, S.J.; sister of Mildred Daughterty. Sp.Int.9.