

Wednesday nite Lenten devot- University of Notre Dame .. East campus, 6:45: west
ions: Fr. Thomas (Senior) Religious Bulletin campus, 7:15. Be on time,
Brennan, C.S.C., preacher... March 1, 1950 please.

"Against A Sudden And Unprovided Death."

Notre Dame students and alumni do not always die in bed with priests and sisters praying around their bedside. Read the following letter and make it a point to get to Mass and Communion tomorrow morning when the Prefects of Religion will offer up their Mass FOR THE NEXT ONE OF US TO DIE. You may be praying for yourself.

"Dear Father: The inspiring account of Ray Espenan's beautiful death, the outstanding testimonial of sympathy on the part of the student body who crowded Sacred Heart Church as it had never been crowded before, brought to my mind a sad contrast."

"After J _____ registered at Notre Dame, back in 19____, he began his student life as a daily communicant. Throughout his freshman year he scarcely missed a morning. However, during his sophomore year he received less frequently. And like many sophomores who start growing stray hairs on their chests began chasing around and drinking."

"He wasn't what one might call a "rounder" yet....He confided in me several times and I tried to get him to discuss his troubles with a priest. Finally he did--during Lent of his second year. That talk fixed him up until June. I didn't see him again until the following September. He was still quite affable but less serious, more dapper but less his real self...His junior year he didn't make the student mission, nor did I see him receive Communion until the Christmas novena for parents."

"Oh, he was a clever fellow, talented, and a type we used to call a 'brain'. His friendships became more exclusive, narrowed down and restricted to that peculiar brand of campus skeptic, the super-intellectual who is the arch-critic of everything holy. ...He drank more frequently now and had several narrow squeaks. Somehow he got by."

"The senior year he moved off campus, because the discipline on campus was insulting, to his way of thinking, to his sense of personal freedom. We had several hot arguments about religion and from the way he was arguing I knew he was reading promiscuously the wrong kind of literature....Well, anyhow, he was graduated with honors but in my estimation without honor. The Notre Dame tradition was unbroken: YOU WILL GRADUATE FROM NOTRE DAME EITHER A BETTER CATHOLIC THAN YOU WERE IN YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR OR A WORSE ONE."

"Two years after graduating he married a non-Catholic outside the Church by a Protestant minister. That almost killed his mother. I was invited to the wedding but refused to go. Even though we now lived in the same town, we saw each other only once in three years. On that occasion I asked him if he ever got his marriage fixed up. The answer was NO. And he hadn't been to Mass once in five years."

"Within two weeks of that emphatic NO, his sister who worked in the same office building as I do called me and broke the news: J _____ had been instantly killed in an auto accident. The police report stated he had been driving recklessly while under the influence of liquor....I went to the wake and said the Rosary with the assistant pastor. When I asked him what time the funeral Mass would be, Father just shook his head and said, 'He'll be buried from this funeral parlor, not from the Church.'"

"...I expressed my condolences to J _____'s mother who was a widow. 'God will be merciful,' I said, With tears streaming down her sad face, grief-stricken, she replied, 'After death God is only just.'....." --J.G., '37

Notice: The K-C's will canvass Badin, Howard and Sorin Thursday and Friday nights for third-week Lenten adorers.

Prayers: (Deceased) friend of Robert Handloy (Far); friend of Paul Wells (Cav); friend of Pat Crowe (Cav); grandfather of E. Murphy (Zahm); Mrs. Ida Borges; Edmund Slos; friend of Fr. Scandlon. Ill: (Appendectomy) Robert Bachner. Special Intentions--9.