

A N D N O W P A T T H O M A S !

Eighteen-year-old Pat Thomas, freshman from Breen-Phillips, left the campus last Saturday never to return. He was to have spent a happy weekend with his close friend, Jim Tierney, whose father had driven them to his home in Wawaka, Indiana.

That same evening Jim took Pat and the Tierney car for a spin down the highway. A farm tractor loomed up ahead. The brilliant head-lights of an on-coming car blinded them and in an instant their car smashed into the tractor....Pat died of a broken neck on the way to the hospital. Jim was not as seriously injured as had been thought. He has been released from the hospital.

After Jack Donahoe's death the Prefects of Religion each offered their Masses for the next one of us to die. The many Holy Communion and Masses heard that particular morning were for Pat Thomas. In his death we read an unmistakable warning. Notre Dame men do die and Notre Dame students often die suddenly.

All who knew Pat liked him. He knew practically everyone in his hall.. For he lived in the spirit of Christian charity. And, as many of you, he had been making the Novena for Mother's Day. Good natured, easy to get along with, devout in a manly way--that was Pat Thomas.

Numbered among his friends was his best Friend--Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Pat was a frequent communicant. But his pilgrimage is now over. More than thirty-six hundred years ago our journey through life was called a pilgrimage by the holy patriarch Jacob. St. Paul writes: "We have not here a lasting city, but we seek one that is to come."

Time is for eternity. Perfect happiness with God awaits us all beyond the grave. Trials, struggles, temptations and sorrows will one day end. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and death shall be no more, nor mourning, nor crying, nor sorrow shall be any more, for the former things are passed away."

Pat Thomas joins Ray Espenan and Jack Donahoe in a heavenly reunion. May God bless them and grant them eternal rest. These three Notre Dame men died as they had lived --in intimate union with God. All their desires have been completely fulfilled. They possess what we do not yet possess forever - infinite truth, love, power and beauty. The saints, Christ assures us in His Gospel, "Shall shine as the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

In the face of this third lesson on sudden death, how many of us can say: "I am ready to meet my God?" Over 2200 received Holy Communion on Mother's Day. If God had called you instead of Pat, would you have been making the Novena?

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for public adoration during May. How many minutes have you knelt in humble prayer before Christ your King? Hundreds are frequenting the Grotto. Are you? In these brief years at Notre Dame you may be writing the decision of your eternal judgment. Will you be as prepared as Ray, Jack and now Pat?

Tomorrow morning a solemn high Mass will be offered for the repose of the soul of Pat Thomas. Breen-Phillips will be present to the last man. All who wish to extend their condolences and to beg God for the grace of a happy death are asked to attend this Mass--6:30 a.m., Tuesday, Main Church--and offer up their Communion for these intentions. You are Notre Dame. Tomorrow morning in the main church and in every hall chapel Notre Dame will express her sympathy to Pat's mother, father and younger brother, Fred. Your actions will speak a more profound message than your words. May your faith help them to accept God's will--whose ways are incomprehensible--with courageous resignation.