

MONDAY NIGHT at 7:00 the University of Notre Dame
Knights of Columbus will Religious Bulletin
collect old clothes. Thanks! May 26, 1950

Insurance statisticians last night predicted that there will be more than thirty million cars on the highways between today and next Tuesday night. They will be driven by all types--good drivers, bad drivers, indifferent drivers, careless drivers, crazy drivers, drunken drivers. Between 290 and 300 men, women and children will lose their lives on the highways during this long Decoration Day week-end in the United States--this over and above the normal average of one death every twenty-two seconds in this country.

Last year over two million Americans met death--many of them dying suddenly, some of them dying unprepared, without a doubt. On this last Friday of the school year therefore it is a good thing to reflect on death and the suddenness of death.

Will Y O U die suddenly? You don't know! Even the young and healthy are no exception to Christ's warning: "I will come like a thief in the night.....at what hour you know not, the Son of Man will come." At this time last year four of your school-mates were doing the same things you are now doing--attending classes, going to Church, taking examinations in the same class rooms, packing trunks in the same halls in preparation for the summer vacation. Today these four are in eternity! It could have been you!

Just as there is nothing more certain than death, there is nothing more uncertain than the hour, the day of death. Not too long ago a physician and surgeon in a large Eastern city was rated perfect after a routine physical examination. He joked with his secretary about his condition, mockingly thumped his chest and dropped dead..... Some time before, up in Battle Creek, Msgr. Walsh, pastor of St. Philip's Church was warning in a funeral sermon that "no man can know when death may come." Then he collapsed in the pulpit, dead from a heart attack.....Just a couple of years ago one of our own boys, George Obermaier, aged 20, was stricken fatally with a cerebral hemorrhage while watching Notre Dame play football.....A few months ago a young girl, age 21, was on the way up the aisle of the church for her wedding in a little town in New York state. Halfway up the aisle she toppled over from a heart attack. Two days later she was buried from the church in which she was to be married...WILL YOU DIE SUDDENLY? You don't know!

Will you die without the Last Sacraments? You do not know! If you were to die today, tonight, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, are you ready? Is your conscience perfectly at ease? As a person lives, usually so does he die. Live at enmity long enough toward God and the chances are that's the way you will die. Death bed conversions are rare. We like to console ourselves in the fact that God is merciful, that Christ is the Good Shepherd, that He is the prototype of the father of the Prodigal Son.

But Christ is also a Person. Never forget that! Even in your every day social contacts if you let it be known to a person by your words or actions or omissions of tokens of friendship that you are just not interested in his company, that you want to go it alone--the chances are that the person you cold-shoulder will let you have it your way. God is a person, and never forget that!

He who never forgets death will never forget God. Before you leave the campus drop in on our Lady down at the Grotto and ask her to help you to live during the summer months as you would wish to die. Pray to her one Golden Hail Mary before you take off: "Hail Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Pray for us that we may live as we wish to die. Pray for us that we may always be prepared so that when the awful hand of death touches us we may hear the blessed words of thy Divine Son: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into everlasting happiness.'"

Prayers: (deceased) Frederick B. Chuto ('92); friend of Bill Rogers(D); mother of F. Nogosek (Cav); Ill: Wife of Gil Burdick (Phy. Ed. Dept.); Chas. D. Scott ('50) grandfather of J. Degan(Cav); friend of Dick Hidding(Cav); Ser. Ill - Mother of Joe Griffin ('49). Also deceased; friend of Jim & Bob McGlynn(D).