

October adoration. Rosary
and Benediction at 5. Soph-
omores sponsor next week.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 3, 1950

Variously priced Daily Mis-
sals on sale 6-7 p.m., 116
Dillon

"It Is Hard For A Man To Be Bad When He Loves A Good Woman."

A few years ago a student came in to tell his story. He made the request that it be handed on to other students in years to come. . .

His father was wealthy but careless, both in religion and morals. His mother, who died when he was ten years old, was a good and pious woman, intensely devoted to the Mother of God. His early days with his mother were passed happily enough, and they were the only days he could recall without remorse. The death of the mother evidently gave the father no added responsibility, for the son was left to his own devices to find pleasure when he was not in boarding school. . .

Precocious and unmitigated vice was the result. He had all the money he wanted to spend, and when you have that you have plenty of friends--of a sort. He took a certain pride in his mind, and this caused him to be a fairly diligent student; but his mind was active enough also to demand a reason for his vicious conduct, and this resulted in his reading atheistic authors and associating with blasphemers, in the hope he would find safety in numbers. At seventeen he was conversant with as many agnostic writings as were his professors, and he was a full-fledged libertine, as cruel as he was impure. And nothing caused a break in his way of life or his philosophy until he came here.

Why he came he could not say. . . He had given no thought to the fact that it was a religious school. This fact came to his attention after he had sent in his application. So he made a supplementary request to be allowed to live off-campus. He felt, however, that he was immune from any religious influence. . .

His shock came when he saw the statue on the dome. "When I first saw it," he said, "my heart almost stopped beating. I was an agnostic, but my philosophy did me no good. I had gloried in my conquests and in my cruelty to women, but now I felt a sickening sense of shame. My tongue had dripped filth, but now it stuck to my mouth. Here was the Mother of the God I had blasphemed--serene, peaceful, majestic, merciful, beautiful--undisturbed by all the evil in my heart and in my ways. Here was the Woman to whom my mother had taught me to address the Hail Mary.

"That was six months ago, and that statue has tortured me day and night. I know my sins. Things long forgotten have come up to haunt me. I have tried to run away from this place, but I cannot. I have planned wicked deeds, and have been unable to carry them out. I close my eyes and try to forget, and I always see that statue--majestic, peaceful, serene. I need no arguments now for the existence of God. I know there is a God because He has a mother."

He made his first Holy Communion over again the next morning, and he was not ashamed of the tears he shed. He got a pair of beads, and a medal to wear about his neck. At the end of the year he moved away from the campus, and no word has come since of his fate. But he wanted his story told for the edification of other students.

This story was told as is for the first time a generation ago in the Religious Bulletin. It is now told for the second time--during the month of October, dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary--not only for the 58 students who attended October Devotions yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock, but for the 3,423 other campus students who did not have the time, or who forgot, let us say. And it will probably be retold in the next generation. . . It was Coventry Patmore who said that a good woman "hath made brutes men, and men divine."

Note: Adorers kindly kneel in the Adoration Chapel, not in the main body of Church.
Prayers: (deceased) mother of Louis Lange; mother of Robert Raymond; grandmother of Father Ralph Davis, C.S.C.; uncle of Father James McDonald, C.S.C.; father of Larry Kelley, '40; brother of Sister Agnella, O.S.J. III: son of L.F. Horan, '31.