

Daily Adoration, Parents
Christmas Novena, 8 to 5.
Benediction at 5 p.m.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 11, 1950

Next Friday day of reparation
and atonement, Mass, Commun-
ion and Adoration.

"Come Ye Blessed of My Father."

Father John Ryan was buried Saturday. You may not have known him, you may never have seen him, but your older brothers and many of your fathers knew him all right. Affectionately the students of his day called him "Toughy." Asked one day why he was labeled such-wise, he said out of the side of his mouth, "Because I am tough." But instinctively with unerring intuition the boys knew that beneath this outer surface of what they called "toughness" was the kindly heart of a devoted priest.

Father Ryan served Christ faithfully at the altar, whenever he prayed his office, religiously attended Community exercises, taught in the classroom, rectored or prefected in the halls. All this with unstinting generosity. But a special devotion highlighted his priestly career: he went out of his way to serve Christ in the sick, the handicapped, the down-and-outer, in any man, woman or child who was up against it. "As long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me."

Father Ryan's reward for this personal unselfishness, his utter inability to say NO to any one in need, his friendly, companionable priestly spirit--is Christ Himself. Our Lord loves to reward His friends, and He is busy now introducing a loyal friend and kindly priest to the joys of His heavenly kingdom, the vastness and scope of which are beyond our feeble understanding.

And so a long and beautiful record of devotion to Holy Cross, to Notre Dame and to the forgotten ones of Christ was closed when Father Ryan went to God. Through his wholesome priestly life God blessed us who lived with him. In his passing we will meditate on his virtues and pray that his memory will be enshrined forever in the hearts of all who saluted in him the priest of Jesus Christ and the man who did not know how to say NO to the hungry, the needy, the sick, and the down-and-out.

Your Prayers Appreciated.

"Dear Father: My sincere thanks to you for requesting Bulletin readers to pray for my recovery. Without their prayers, and those of others who knew about my near fatal accident, I would be losing more than only one semester at Notre Dame.

"When the chips are down and one is bedridden for many months, it is mighty consoling to realize that the men back on campus are remembering the sick and ailing in their Masses and Communion and at the Grotto. . . . May I suggest that each Bulletin reader renew his intention to include all requests for help in his daily prayers."

Two G's.

In physics an elementary law states that for every action there must be a reaction. In the spiritual life the same law does not apply-exactly. God's actual grace is His action in the soul. He stirs it up, energizes it. But a positive reaction does not always happen, unless we speak of resistance to God's grace, which is more negative than any reaction at all. To overcome temptations against chastity, or against any other virtue, to become more than a mere casual acquaintance of Christ, actual grace must have stuff not fluff to work with. We call that stuff "guts."

Some smarter alects will object to such "crude" terminology or take umbrage where no umbrage is intended. But we all understand what is meant when it is said, "He is gutless." Offensive to pious ears or not, or to ears more refined than pious, that's what a man is if he tolerates dirty talk, dirty stories, or smut on this campus dedicated to the Mother of God. God always supplies the "G" in grace, but we must supply the other "G" if we want to do something or be somebody worth-while for God and Mary. Prayers: (deceased) mother of John P. Gorman, benefactor: brother of Jerry Dobyns, '50; William Donovan, Ill, mother of Bob Clark; Jerry and Frank Shattuck(polio); W. Polka.