

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Don't Overlook This Letter

It expresses sentiments deep in the heart of every parent. It comes from one of the best educators in the world today, or any other day, -- a good Catholic father -- to his son in Morrissey hall. Chances are that you are no different from the boy who received this note. What is said here applies to you, too. Never mind the name of the receiver; read this note from his dad:

"Dear Hal:

"Well, this is it! You are now a student of old Notre Dame, fulfilling a life-long ambition that a son should step into the shoes I would like to have filled; but which circumstances prevented. Although I always prayed that you would have the opportunity, and felt sure to the very last that the prayers would be answered, it did look discouraging for awhile -- and then the miracle happened. We were shown the necessity of sacrifice; and now you are at Notre Dame, one of Our Lady's men. May you always be one!

"You have been away from home before, in scouting, and with the navy; but never on your own in the sense you are now. You have grown up -- you are a man now -- a man in the sense that you must make your own decisions and determine your future happiness and helpfulness in this world, and the salvation of your immortal soul. We have tried to help steer you in the right direction always, and shall continue to do so in the future when you ask our counsel. But this will diminish during the years to come. Whether you choose some engineering or science course, a commercial course in order to manage the Enterprizes, or one of religion, that remains for you to decide. Do the thing that will give you the most personal satisfaction and inner feeling of well being. You don't necessarily have to live with others -- but you must live with yourself always. Pray for Divine Guidance, and seek out the advice of your instructors, your confessor, and chaplain at Notre Dame. They will act in our stead for the next few years.

"God has given you many talents -- speech, music, a good mind and ability to think, a good personality and ability to get along with people. If you will recall the Bible parable, you surely must realize the responsibility you have to choose a field of action where you can make the most return to God of the talents He has bestowed upon you. Your good use of them to this moment has meant that you are going to school with the good wishes of more people than any other boy who ever left for school. You are going to Notre Dame, too, and thereby they are expecting more. I know you are not going to let them down. Whatever the sacrifice is at home, and I think you are fully aware of that sacrifice, it will be worthwhile if you complete the course as well as you have started.

Prayerfully yours"

After reading this, you recall the high hopes of your own parents. You may even recall the present semester and what you are doing with the advantages offered to you. But it's enough to make you want to use your time well these last days, and make a good showing in the exams. Remember: your being at Notre Dame is of vital concern not only to you, but to the family as well.

Suggestion -- A private Novena for success in the exams, beginning tomorrow morning, and closing on January 21 (Mass, Communion, and daily Rosary)

PRAYERS -- Deceased: grandmother of Dave Shanahan of Cavanaugh; father of Ed Enoch (Off-Campus). Ill: Chaplain Joseph Aud; friend of Ed White of Fisher; grandmother of Jack Selner (Zahn).