

Tonight at 6:45 in Sacred Heart -- The Novena to the Sorrowful Mother.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 25, 1955

A Mother's Letter

Sunday: All Masses, except for the Seniors, in Sacred Heart Church.

"Dear Son:

"There was no letter from you today; but there was a Pink Report Card from the University, and it made my heart sink when I read it. You had prepared me for it in a way, but it was a shock just the same. It looks so bad in print. We have worked so hard, and sacrificed so much to give you an education, and now it looks as though it will all go for nothing.

"Your father is not well at all, and so I kept this from him. He has worked so hard for you, because he realizes how much he was held back by not having an education. If he finds out now that you are on probation, I am afraid his nerves will give way again -- and that means a long time of no work, and more doctor bills with little money to pay for them.

"I know you are working hard, and find the classes so much more advanced than in high school; but can't you talk to some of the priests and find out why your work isn't meriting better results? Do you pray as much as you should? George's mother says that George is always writing home about going to Communion every day, but you never say anything about that. I don't expect you to be a priest, but I do want you to be a good man; and you need so much religion to resist temptations today. I have been told that this is one of the great advantages of Notre Dame -- but it doesn't seem to mean much to you. Sometimes, and especially today, I wonder at our wisdom in telling your Rector that we approved your taking weekends whenever you so desired.

"Why don't you make a Novena to the Immaculate Conception to ask her to help you? You know how much devotion I have always had to the Blessed Mother, and how I recommend all of you to her care every day, and say the Rosary for you. I pray for everyone at Notre Dame -- I have even been saying a Rosary for the football team, that they won't get injured.

"Won't you please work harder this time to get off that probation list, and send home a report that will cheer up your father? I can't bear to think what the neighbors will say if you come home in February -- it meant so much to us when you were accepted at Notre Dame. And the children -- they are all so proud of their big brother at Notre Dame. Please, please be a good boy, and work harder, and pray harder these next few weeks.

"Your loving Mother".

Many, many, (and one is too many) similar letters are flooding the campus, these days. Read this one again; then read it a third time. There are few things mothers can't do. Maybe a little reflection on this letter is all you need to get moving -- to pitch in and use the brains, and the time, and the opportunities that God and good parents hold out to you here. With this Sunday we begin Advent -- a time of prayer and penance in preparation for Christmas. Remembering that "to work is to pray", dig in for the serious reason that you owe to yourself and to your parents.

About last Friday's Bulletin -- it wasn't "Home-Run" Baker who went to Notre Dame. We threw that one in to check your baseball lore. Some of you caught it. But it was Cy Williams, the big-leaguer, to whom we referred, as ante-dating the era of Gipp.

PRAYERS - Deceased: grandfather of Tom Maus of Sorin, uncle of John Fochtman of Zahm; mother of Tom Tearney; friend of Bob Seckler of Morrissey. Ill: aunt of Mike Lessa of Alumni; friend of Tom Bennett of Wash; parents and brother of George Omerjian of Badin; Rev. Philip Schaerf, CSC. 3 special intentions.