

May 7, 1956

Tomorrow's group includes
Dillon, Pangborn and Sorin --
as in Lent.

Don't forget: the daily
Adoration during May in
the Lady Chapel.

The Rogation Days

Every day you learn something at Notre Dame; and today was no exception. If the chanting of the Litany of the Saints woke you early this morning, it was the priests, and Brothers, and Seminarians marching from the church through the woods to Calvary, petitioning God's blessing on the crops that will soon be planted. The custom goes back to the Middle Ages. With all our shortcomings, we are still humble enough to recall that we depend upon God's Providence; and so we ask Him to watch over us, to bless our labors, and to provide the food that we need to sustain us. In Catholic countries the parish priest, accompanied by the people, still marches through the fields at planting time, asking God to bless their labor and to grant a bountiful harvest. Tomorrow and Wednesday, only the hardy monks will make the local journey with the same prayers. And you, comfortably situated in your own warm bed, might very well resolve to wander down to your hall chapel later in the morning, and ask God's blessing on the laboring elements in your own family -- that His Providence may continue to keep you here at Notre Dame -- and keep the family comfortable in the material order, at least regarding the necessities of life.

Incidentally, how many of you have ever walked through the woods to Calvary? These are ideal days to get acquainted with your lovely 1700-acre campus.

We Don't Go For Bridey Murphy

The literary world has lately come up with a best-seller that, from all appearances, is nothing more than the brain-child of one Morey Bernstein. It is supposed to be a case of "reincarnation." A young, Colorado housewife tells us that she previously existed in Belfast, Ireland in the first half of the 19th Century. The core of the book consists of long transcriptions of conversations between Bernstein and Bridey who speaks through Mrs. Simmons. The first hundred pages is devoted to Bernstein's own exposition of how he was "converted" from his early materialism to a belief in the theory of reincarnation. His doctrine is strictly for the birds.

Aside from the fact that Bridey's description of 19th-Century Belfast are full of contradictions, the doctrine of reincarnation runs contrary to some of the fundamental truths of Christianity. It denies the individual creation of each human soul by God. It is opposed to the teachings of St. Paul that "it is appointed for each man to die, and after that the judgment." In recounting her own death in 1864, Bridey even denies the existence of Purgatory.

By projecting hypnosis into the book as the medium for getting this information from his character, Bernstein hit upon a novelty that captured the public interest (and pocketbook). He stands to profit handsomely from his fiction; but it would be tragic if his readers took him seriously. As Catholics, we must regard the doctrine propounded as sheer nonsense. And something tells us that Bernstein is having a good laugh for himself as he counts his gullible disciples -- and his royalties.

Illustrious Company

The campus hasn't witnessed a more edifying sight in many a moon than the May-Day affair of last Monday evening. You who participated honored in a most fitting way the Mother of God -- you even honored yourselves by joining such illustrious company! We're grateful for all the assistance given by the various campus organizations, by the Administration, and by Brother Boniface and Brother Louis, in paying this tribute to Our Lady in our best masculine tradition.

PRAYERS - Deceased: friend of Paul Dougherty of St. Ed's. Ill: mother of Sister Mary Bede (Summer School); uncle of John Kennedy of Alumni.