

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
September 19, 1956

For The Freshmen

Here we come, introducing ourselves to you, and welcoming you to our new list of readers. We'll pop into your room three or four times a week, with announcements, pointers, bits of information, and slants on matters that concern your daily spiritual welfare. It takes about five minutes of your day to find out what gives with the Bulletin. For generations, 8 out of 10 N.D. men have read this little sheet faithfully, and confess that they have found it eminently worthwhile. We hope that you, too, will acquire the same habit.

Up to this point you have had the campus to yourselves. By now you're well acquainted with the new world of Notre Dame life. You've discovered that there is no hazing here, rather there is a generous measure of kindness. And Father Hesburgh, the President of the University, thought you were important enough for him to take 3 days out of his busy schedule to acquaint you with the most important work at Notre Dame -- the biggest thing in your own lives -- your spiritual education here on campus. It was something he wanted to do himself -- the first step of your education into the Notre Dame way of life.

Tomorrow, along with the Upperclassmen, you begin classes. You join the legions of the learned in the battle of the books. It's almost a new kind of life -- and certainly a new experience. It is a dream of bright opportunity. It marks the realization of your early dreams and hopes -- and maybe it has become a reality only after many sacrifices on the part of your parents. At any rate, it is your chance to make something of yourself -- to improve your mind and heart for this world and for eternity. And Notre Dame will help you all she can.

You might have gone to Northwestern, or to Tulane, or to Yale -- or to a hundred other schools with excellent professors, classy labs, maybe softer beds and easier morning schedules. They're all good schools -- but Notre Dame is different. There's only one Notre Dame in all this great land of ours.

The Big Difference

When you register at Notre Dame, you become a member, not merely of a university, but of that great family of which Our Lady -- the Mother of God -- is the Mother of us all, Catholic and non-Catholic. You caught a glimpse of her long before you reached the campus. You first saw her atop the golden dome -- just as St. John saw her -- "clothed with the sun." You can scarcely lift your head during the day without catching the same splendid vision; or walk anywhere about the campus in the evening without being conscious of her presence. She dominates the entire atmosphere of our household.

It's an old adage that the presence of any great lady is felt throughout her house. It is also true that, behind the ambitions and deeds of all great men in the past, there has always been the inspiration of some noble lady. Surely, you need not look elsewhere for the secret of success behind thousands of Notre Dame men down through the years! It's the Lady atop the Dome.

If you want to be a great Notre Dame man, then get to know her well. She has a way of taking care of her sons past all belief. With four years under her care, and nourished daily on the Body and Blood of Her Son, you will go out of here tall and strong in mind and heart -- like the oaks at her Grotto -- healthy in soul and mind and body. Start tomorrow to live the full, Notre Dame way of life.