

# UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

## Religious Bulletin

December 7, 1956

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### Tomorrow's Feast and the Confraternity

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception holds added meaning for students and Alumni of our University which has paid special homage to the Virgin Mary from its earliest years. The golden dome, surmounted by her statue, has become a symbol of the school throughout the world. And just one year after the University received its charter, an Archconfraternity of the Blessed Mother was established on the campus by Father Sorin, founder and president. Only 16 years after Our Lady appeared to Bernadette at Lourdes, *The Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Lourdes* was canonically established by Bishop Dwenger of Fort Wayne. Then 22 years later, Notre Dame's beautiful Grotto was completed. In the intervening years, tens of thousands of students, alumni, pilgrims, and visitors have prayed at the candlelit campus shrine.

Recently, the Bishop of Lourdes and Tarbes declared that the approaching centenary of the apparitions at Lourdes "provides a providential occasion to give new life to the confraternity, and to attract thousands to share its spiritual advantages."

Membership in the confraternity may be obtained simply by enrolling one's name and address. There are no fees for membership, or services. The value of doing so lies in the fact that members participate in the same indulgences and spiritual advantages as at Lourdes. It's comforting, too, to recall that the campus, in this particular matter, becomes another Lourdes where the following Indulgence, granted by Pope Pius IX, may be obtained:

"To each of the faithful who will be enrolled in the said Confraternity, on the day on which they are received, We mercifully grant, in the Lord, a Plenary Indulgence, if, after making a good confession, they have received the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist; and also to present and future members of the Confraternity (we grant) a Plenary Indulgence at the hour of death, if they have confessed with truly contrite hearts, and have been strengthened by Holy Communion; or when unable to do this, if, at least contrite, they invoke the Name of Jesus; and likewise to those members who, after having made a good confession and received Communion, shall devoutly visit the church of the Confraternity on the titular Feast of the Immaculate Conception, or on one of the seven days immediately following, We grant a Plenary Indulgence and the remission of all their sins, provided they pray fervently to God for the concord of Christian rulers, the extirpation of heresy, and the exaltation of Holy Mother Church . . ."

A Mass is offered daily at Lourdes for the Pope and for the intentions of members.

*Admission:* Persons who desire to become members need but have their names inscribed on the Register of the Confraternity, and receive a Certificate of Admission. *Students* need but sign a card that will be found at the pamphlet racks on campus.

Only last week, Bishop Pursley, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Fort Wayne, recalling that the Blessed Virgin, under the title of her Immaculate Conception, is not only the Patroness of our diocese, but also the Mother of all Christians, and the Queen of Peace, urged special prayers to her in behalf of her children who are today in desperate need of help. At Notre Dame his plea will not fall on dull ears. We assure him that our traditional love and devotion for our Patroness will be augmented; that our visits to the Grotto will be many and voluntary; that she will have a generous part in every day of our lives. We know that this path is the surest way to the Feet of Our Lord Himself.