

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

February 18, 1957

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Remembering Father John Burke, CSC.  
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We all owe a debt of prayers for the soul of Father John J. Burke, CSC, who died in the Student Infirmary early Saturday morning, and who was buried today. Although you were not well acquainted with him, many Notre Dame men of yesterday will remember him as a teacher of economics, and later as a kind and competent Prefect of Discipline.

At the outbreak of World War II, Father Burke joined the Chaplain Corps of the Navy and saw service for many months at sea. On his return to the campus, he lent his knowledge of finances to local tasks created by an expanding university. As the Vice-President in charge of Business Affairs, he was largely responsible for the sound economy that prevailed in all University departments and transactions. His most recent assignment was to perform the same service for the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Prior to taking up studies for the priesthood, Father Burke was an experienced banker, and had a sense of know-how regarding financial matters that you rarely associate with the cloister. "It's a strange turn of events," he once ironically confided. "I wanted to leave the world and banking, and finance, with all its lending and spending. I thought the priesthood would be a natural escape from all this sort of thing for me. And look what happened!"

His case offers a perfect example of the variety of skills needed by even a Religious Order in our day. It is also an example of how God finds an outlet for talents laid at His Feet, and how easily He accepts and uses them for His own honor and glory.

But for all his business acumen, Father Burke found time to be a remarkable priest, combining sound piety with a pleasant disposition, steeped in a rich sense of humor. Even when plagued by recurrent illness, he stood patiently at his tasks, obedient to the limitations prescribed by doctors. His fellow priests found him a lovable companion -- a remarkable combination of Celtic generosity and financial precision. Now that he has departed from our company, we find much to remember him by. And because of his many years spent in the service of this school, our Faith tells us that the Blessed Mother will not forget him who labored so well for Her. And neither should we who are all members of Her household here, and who share in the fruits of his labors. That's why we owe him a rich remembrance in our prayers. R.I.P.

Marriage And God's Law  
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"...In fine, in spite of what others may wish to assert and spread abroad by word of mouth or in writing, let husband and wife resolve: to stand fast to the commandments of God in all things that matrimony demands; always to render to each other the assistance of mutual love; to preserve the honor of chastity; not to lay profane hands on the stable nature of the bond; to use the rights given them by marriage in a way that will be always Christian and sacred, more especially in the first years of wedlock, so that should there be need of continency afterward, custom will have made it easier for each to preserve it.

"In order that they may make this firm resolution, keep it and put it into practice, an oft-repeated consideration of their state of life, and a diligent reflection on the Sacrament they have received, will be of great assistance to them. Let them constantly keep in mind that they have been sanctified and strengthened for the duties and for the dignity of their state by a special Sacrament, the efficacious power of which, although it does not impress a character, is undying..."

- Pope Pius XI

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Tonight: The Marriage Institute. Admission by ticket only.