

~~Tomorrow~~: May Adoration  
for Morrissey, B-P, and  
St. Edward's halls.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
May 8, 1957

Friday - Adoration for Zahm,  
Cavanaugh and Farley. Mother's  
Day cards now available.

-----  
The Quote Of The Week  
-----

"... A person should be absolutely free in his dealings with God. That's one relationship in which discipline has no part at all..."

That's the way one sophomore looks at it -- a sophomore who has much to learn about himself -- and about human nature in general -- if he thinks young men do much better left entirely on their own.

Discipline, which minimizes laziness and sloppy thinking and self-indulgence on the football field, is o-k; it makes a better team. Discipline in the classroom is o-k, too; it helps make keener students.

But discipline becomes unsacred, sacrilegious, when employed against a student's weaknesses, to help him know, love, and serve his God more fittingly! Now there's a bit of sophomore logic for you!

A little serious thinking will reveal that Religion itself is, on the contrary, precisely a discipline, a divine discipline which makes, not just any kind of followers, but disciples, children of a discipline. It is fairly obvious -- even to a sophomore mind -- that divine doctrines are not submitted to the free choice of men; but "He who believes shall be saved; he who believes not shall be condemned."

The commandments of God and of the Church are not timidly suggested as possible norms of morality. They are: "Thou shalt's" and "Thou shalt not's," and are pronounced with divine wisdom amidst the thunders of an eternal sanction.

Strict discipline is imposed by the Church upon all Catholics, old and young: they must attend Mass on Sundays and holydays; they are to fast and abstain on appointed days; they must confess their sins at least once a year, and receive Holy Communion at Easter-time. These are minimum requirements, under pain of mortal sin.

Discipline is salutary, too, in the conduct of mature men and women who heroically give their lives to God in the religious state. Look at the rules governing religious orders and congregations and societies! Look at the discipline imposed by the Church on secular priests!

Boys who insist upon "doing as they please" about their duties to God are ignorant of human nature, and they miss the whole point of a divine religion.

Protestantism, it is true, introduced the principle of private interpretation, of private observance, of pick-and-choose, of do-as-you-please. But we are Catholics. And Catholics stand, first of all, for obedience to God and to His lawful representatives. For us, the Church is a continuation of Christ Himself.

Nobody is forced to the heroic by the Church. The chief and ultimate purpose of the Church's interest in you is to help you save your soul. Some wholesome moral and religious habits of discipline are necessary in the process.

Discipline and the life of a Christian are indispensable. Every game has its rules. Deny the existence of God, and you can wink at the rules He laid down. But sooner or later the dilemma comes back at you -- Just imagine yourself all dressed up for eternity, and no place to go!

-----  
PRAYERS - Deceased: uncle of Roy Wessel of Howard; mother of Francis Romance, '54; uncle of David Kelsey of Badin; mother of Don (Pangborn) and Dick (St. Ed's) Corbett.