

Solemn Opening of the  
Academic Year at 9:00  
Mass, this Sunday.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
September 20, 1957

Student Masses in Sacred  
Heart Church at 6,7,8,9,10:15,  
11:15. Use upper church only.

Back At The Ranch

It was a brief summer. Time flew -- especially for the new Sophomores. In no time at all they wore out their welcome at home. Nine hundred romances grew shaky and fizzled. Nine hundred new ones developed. The crowd at home grew stale by July 4. And the net result: the campus was crowded earlier than usual this year, all eager to trip across the campus to the west edge, and to the new halls and new roommates on the east side.

South Bend was quiet in your absence. Still, the nurses and the town girls managed to survive. There were some pretty handsome men here for summer school; they cut a devastating figure in their Bermuda shorts, and made the girls forget all about you so far away. The upshot of all this: many of you will have much spadework to do in a romantic vein to recapture the affections you thought you had won in June.

What Did You Learn At Home ?

The summer vacation brings out a lot of angles on Notre Dame. What did people ask about? What did they tell you about the school? As you look back on the past three months, did you add anything to the Notre Dame reputation by your own salesmanship? Or did your conduct eat into her best traditions?

You'll have a chance to do a little thinking, and a little reviewing of your summer life at the class mission coming up. The Sophomores begin their mission Sunday evening, under the direction of their Chaplain, Father Menard. Juniors and Seniors will follow. And what is the mission? It is a spiritual purgation, and a heavenly tonic. It's just what you need as you start a new year at Notre Dame. Why? Because it is so easy to forget during the summer that God Himself made you; and that someday, maybe before this year is over, He is going to ask you what He made you for. The mission reminds you that you are going to have to answer that question.

The mission is, without a doubt, the most important event in your school year. It won't make any difference at the Last Judgment whether or not the team wins any games this fall; or what your mark in calculus was; or the color of the drapes your mother insisted on hanging in your apartment in St. Ed's hall; or how many Sunday teas you championed at St. Mary's.

But it would be a tragedy beyond scope if any student who registered here this semester were to go to hell for all eternity! That's why the mission is so important -- for you and your roommate; and for the buddy who suggests you skip it all and spend the evening down the avenue at Frankie's.

There's hardly a man in this school who will not admit that getting off to a good start is half the battle. Maybe you learned that from your Freshman year -- when the president, Father Hesburgh, took three days out of his busy schedule to make sure you got the facts straight regarding the make-up of a genuine Notre Dame man, and the genuine Notre Dame education. On the other hand, we've had a few skip the class mission, and suffer moral collapse. Some wake up at Christmas; others dawdle until Easter. Experience proves that it is the weak character who misses the mission.

Sophomores know their way around the place now. It is presumed that they know what's worthwhile, too. Hence, we'll be looking for them this Sunday evening at 6:45 in Sacred Heart Church -- and for Mass, Communion, and a brief instruction in the same place on the following 3 mornings at 6:45 a.m. Students living off-campus will find it hard to be at church at 6:45. Sure, it's hard! Sure, it's tough! It's a pretty good yardstick for measuring just how tough you are, too!