

Tomorrow: The Holy Hour
at 4:45 (lower church).

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
April 23, 1958

Tomorrow: Afternoon Mass
at 5:10 (upper church).

The End Of An Era

Toward the end of July, 1843, four Sisters of Holy Cross arrived to help Father Sorin in his bold venture at Notre Dame. Each succeeding year saw the number of Sisters grow. They came from all parts of the United States, from Ireland, and from Europe.

According to Father Arthur Hope, CSC, their first home was the loft of the Log Chapel which Father Sorin had built that spring. It must have been hot and miserable -- but we have no record of their complaining -- they were probably too weary by evening to notice anything at all. Their day was filled with labor of a very necessary sort -- cooking, cleaning, laundering, sewing, mending, nursing, and left no time for idle hands. It was they who, through the struggling pioneer days, made the University economically possible. If you wonder how Notre Dame got by financially, here's the answer, because their talents were manifold and spent wholeheartedly in a variety of services. They even made the birettas, the albs, the surplices. They baked the altar breads, and decorated the tabernacle veils with an art and a devotion proper only to lives dedicated to God. Their presence here literally meant bread in our mouths.

This was the "living endowment" that nurtured the University from the beginning. Later, they took complete charge of the "Minims" department with a motherly devotion yet remembered by fathers and grandfathers of today's student body.

For over 115 years there has been an unbroken chain of labor and love on the part of these Sisters; but now the chain has run out. A century of service of the most dedicated sort, and often very menial; a service that could not be bought; a service that was woven with prayer; a service that was essential to the birth and growth of Notre Dame; a service which, alas, was too often taken for granted and too often went unthanked!

Now their services are to be terminated. The few remaining elderly Sisters will go to St. Mary's convent.

Tonight, the Bulletin pauses a moment to recall for the present generation their early and constant presence among us, to note their contributions to our life here, and to bless the memory of these valiant women.

And we would remind you that, whenever and wherever the heroes of Notre Dame are recalled, don't exclude our staunchest benefactors from the earliest days -- the Sisters of Holy Cross.

May Adoration

Very soon, canvassers will be rapping at your doors, inviting you to participate in the beautiful custom of May Adoration. As in Lent, you will be asked to give one half-hour each week to this devotion. It's an opportunity to pray for yourself, and for your families. Many of your dads are feeling the effects of the current recession. Maybe you can stand a little help in the final exams. For the Seniors it will mark their last month at Notre Dame. For many others, it may never again be so easy to pray, or so convenient to beg the graces most needed in their lives. Be good to yourselves, and to your families by participating in May Adoration.

PRAYERS REQUESTED - Deceased: grandmother of Ron Wagner of Dillon; grandfather of Ted Fitzgerald of Badin; Dr. Frederick E. Neff, '95; Maurice Donnelly, '20. Ill: friend of Craig Hewett, '46; friend of Herb Gessler, '50; grandmother of Gene Virtuoso of Dillon. Bill Sullivan and Bill Shaughnessy (accident victims of last Friday evening) continue to improve at the hospital in Niles, Michigan.