

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Notre Dame, Indiana

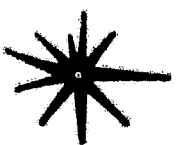
● NINE YEARS AGO next Monday, eternal life began for Ray Espenan. His soul went winging on its way from a room in St. Joseph's Hospital downtown. A Notre Dame student and athlete, his life was short in years, but rich and successful, because he quickly learned how to live. You should know about Ray, even though you may never have heard his name. He was an end on the '49 football team, and a broad jumper on the track team. He was fatally injured on the trampoline. Taken to St. Joseph's Hospital with a broken neck, X-rays showed there was little that medical science could do for him. He was anointed and received Holy Viaticum, and as he lay there completely paralyzed, his lips moved in prayer. He offered up the terrific pain in his head, neck, and shoulders "for those who are not receiving the Sacraments as much as they should." Fr. Hesburgh said, "Ray, you may die anytime now." Ray shook his head knowingly. He made an act of resignation to accept God's will, whatever it might be, and lapsed into a coma. Four hours later, Ray died.



RAYMOND (RAY) ESPENAN
Student at University of Notre Dame
1947-50
Born May 5, 1926 in New Orleans, La.
Died February 23, 1950 at South Bend, Ind.

On this anniversary of Ray's death, let's recall that there is a time-honored custom hereabouts to pray for the next one of us to die. Why not offer your Mass and Communion on Monday for this intention? You may be helping yourself.

● CONFESSIONS will be heard at the Novena services tonight in Sacred Heart Church at 6:45, and again tomorrow evening in the Church from 6:00 until 8:30.



BLOOD DONORS WANTED : See the Prefect of Religion, 116 Dillon Hall.

● SENIORS may not get suggestions in the Marriage Institute about how to face up to the impending death of the one they love. But there could surely be no better approach than that of a recent graduate whose wife is dying. He writes:

"Madeleine is now in the final phase of the disease. Her heart and nervous system are affected and any recovery would be a miracle. Her eyesight is going, her hearing impaired, and she trembles most of the time.

...Death is not far....Our pastor, a very holy Monsignor, brought her Communion this morning, and will anoint her in a few days, as soon as the time is opportune.

She grows more admirable despite her condition. We are, of course, praying for a miracle, but if it is God's Will that she enter Heaven now, it will be no tragedy. I do not think another hundred years of life could make her life any more successful than it has been."

Patriot of the Year AWARD,

TONIGHT in the Drill Hall at 8:00.

● WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY this week-end calls to mind a rather timely statement attributed to the First President of the United States:

"We have abundant reason to rejoice that in this Land the light of truth and reason has triumphed over the power of bigotry and superstition, and that every person may here worship God according to the dictates of his own heart. In this enlightened Age and in this land of equal liberty it is our boast that a man's religious tenets will not forfeit the protection of the laws, nor deprive him of the right of attaining and holding the highest offices that are known in the United States."

● YOUR PRAYERS have been requested for: Deceased: Grandfather of Larry Richart of Sorin; Pierre de Lunden, '07; brother of Fr. Maurice Powers, C.S.C. and uncle of Pat Powers of Keenan; friend of Charlie Richm of Pangborn. Ill: Wife of Paul Delker, '49; friend of Dan Allen of Morrissey; mother of Joseph Gosline, '49.



POPE PIUS XII gave the Church a tremendous program of liturgical restoration during the nineteen years of his reign. He wrote encyclicals on music and the liturgy; he restored the Holy Week services; he gave permission for evening Mass; he introduced a new regulation regarding the Eucharistic fast; he approved the English-Latin ritual; he initiated efforts at streamlining daily Mass; and finally, on the Feast of St. Pius X last year gave the Church what would prove to be his final liturgical legacy, the Instruction regarding the congregation's participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

SINCE THE INSTRUCTION APPEARED last September, priests everywhere have been busy in an attempt to carry out the directions given in the Instruction. Next time you're home, your pastor may ask you what efforts we've been making here. Those who attended the closing of the Lourdes Centennial, at 4:30 last Wednesday, can talk about the splendid participation of the congregation in the singing of the Mass on that occasion.

FOR THOSE WHO COULD NOT BE PRESENT on that occasion, let me suggest that you look into some of the other things that go on here all the time. To point out just a few: every morning at 9:30 in the Church there is a sung Mass, and every Sunday, three recitative Masses and a sung Mass. (Granted, the recitative Masses are still a long way from giving the impression of corporate worship in which the body of worshippers is actively involved. But if those in attendance will just open their mouths and read from their missals, I am sure it will not be long before our recitative Masses adequately reflect the intentions of Christ's Body publicly offering sacrifice and praise to the Father.)

AS THE SCHOOL YEAR unfolded, an effort was made to celebrate special feasts and to observe the Church's seasons. During Advent, for instance, an Advent wreath was placed in the sanctuary of the church and the Sunday High Mass was a Solemn Mass sung by the congregation. After Christmas, the feast of the Epiphany was celebrated by a sung Mass and the blessing of gold, incense, and myrrh. The gold (collected during the year from star-crossed lovers and medal winners) is destined to go into the sacred vessels in the church. The incense will be burned at solemn services and Benediction during the coming year. Then, during the Chair of Unity Octave a Mass in the Byzantine rite was offered, with those participating provided with books for following the ceremony. And now during these weeks of Lent, at the daily 5:10 Mass there is a brief homily to point up the lesson participants should draw from the day's Mass.

AS IS THE INSTRUCTION, so too should our efforts be aimed at a fuller sharing in the Mass. In every Mass there is pre-supposed a union of the participants with the celebrant. In a recitative Mass there is added the external unity of speech and language. And where there is this unity the participants cease to be "strangers or mute spectators", and to a greater degree "exercise the kind of participation which is required by so great a mystery and which yields most abundant fruit."

LENT has been described as "THE ANNUAL TRAINING PERIOD FOR THE BODY'S NECESSARY YEAR-ROUND ACCEPTANCE OF THE GUIDANCE OF THE SOUL UNDER THE OVERALL INFLUENCE OF GOD'S GRACE. What better time then for realizing more fully the Church's wish regarding our participation at Mass. Why not, during this Lent, get a missal, take it to Mass with you, and use it. You'll be helping yourself more than you know.

Gene Boorman, c.c.
Prefect of Religion