

# RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Monday, May 11, 1959

Notre Dame, Indiana

● THE GULLY-WASHER SPECIAL that greeted you on arising this morning should put new life back in the greens and fair-ways. And....it should be gone by 6:30 this evening, so don't forget to assemble at the Grotto for May Devotions.

● COULD BE that four or five still have not made their Easter Duty. Trinity Sunday is only two weeks away. And the buzzer in Dillon is only a few steps from wherever you are. Or, try Howard, or Keenan, or Cavanaugh, if they are closer.

● THE CHARITY CHEST each year aids a number of good causes, among them the work of Dr. Thomas Dooley, '49, who works at bringing medical relief to the people of the Kingdom of Laos. Dr. Dooley writes:

"The students at Notre Dame recently sent us several hundred dollars....It is very good to know that people at home...remember us spiritually and materially.

We have completed our new building, such as it is. And within a week, all the beds (mats, really) were filled. The sick-call line never ends. The refugees still escape. Night-calls constantly interrupt our few hours in the "rack". The people in this area, hovering on the Communist border, are the sickest people I have ever seen--and that includes Vietnam's chaotic refugees. The earth's most ancient thunder is, indeed, the bleat of the sick.

There is a sameness to the misery. But there is also a oneness of all the people here. A oneness with each other, and a oneness with us. This is not hypocrisy. Brotherhood here is a palpable thing. It has a body."

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● PANGBORN, DILLON, and SORIN residents are responsible for providing adorers tomorrow afternoon when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the Lady Chapel. Then, on Wednesday, KEENAN, HOWARD, BADIN, and LYONS residents have their turn. Exposition begins at noon and continues until 4:45 P.M.

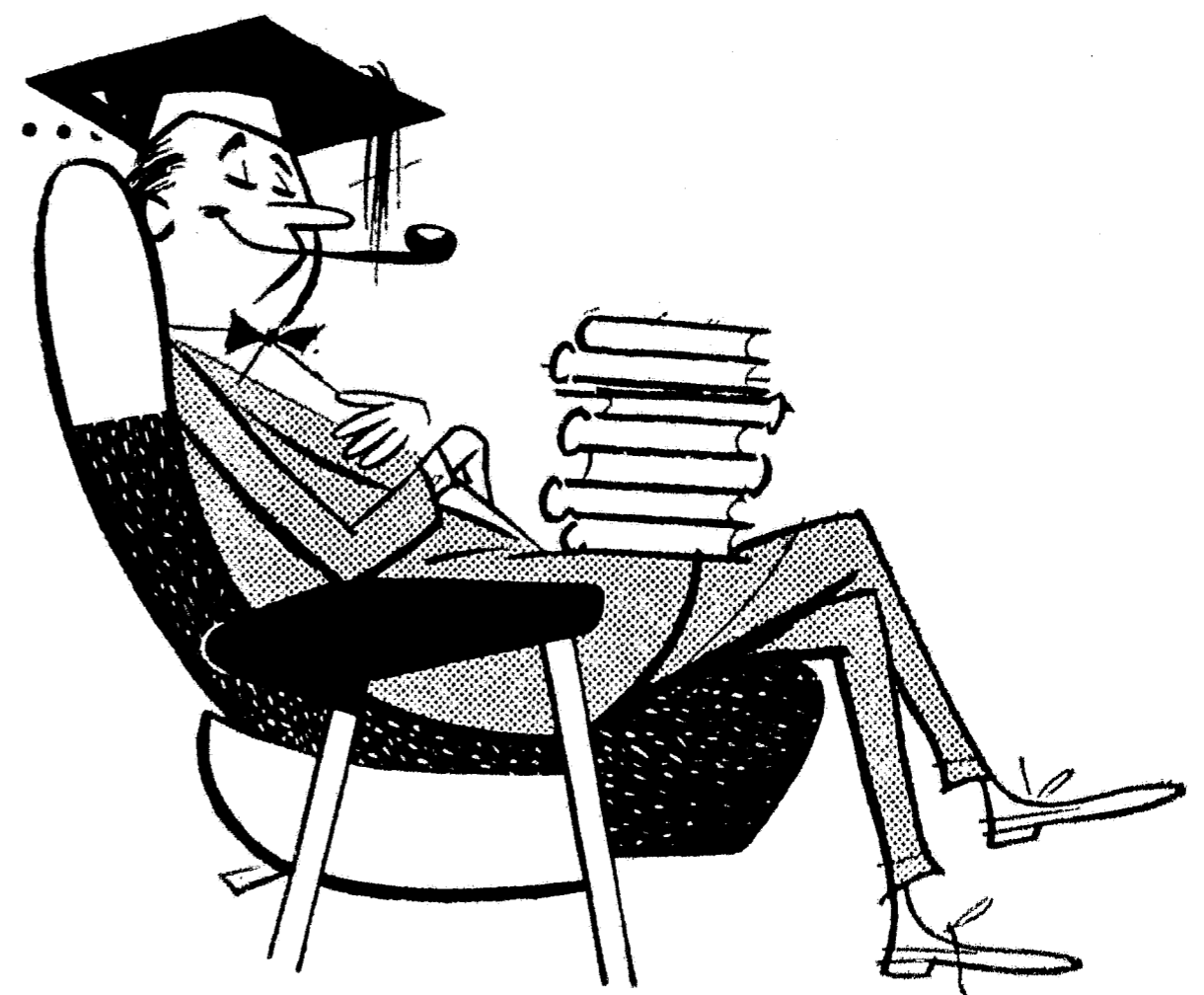
● TOMORROW EVENING, the Student Senate Spiritual Commission will present Professor Ernest Brandl in the O'Shaughnessy Art Gallery. Professor Brandl's lecture is part of the Mariology series, and is entitled, "The Woman Clothed With the Sun". Time: 8:00 P.M.

● THANKS to "Three Fellows" whose mutual betterment campaign netted \$4.37 for the Missions.

● EACH YEAR, when the schoolyear ends, the St. Vincent De Paul Society will gather up any old polished cottons that are too too polished, sweaters that are no longer to your liking, and the jackets which your younger brother has already outgrown. So when you begin your packing, lay aside the clothes that are still usable, but which you will no longer be wearing, and when the boxes for the St. Vincent De Paul Society are set out, have something to put in.

● EVER SINCE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGAN, some haven't gotten their clocks set right. Witness the late-comers for Sunday Mass.

● A WORD OF CAUTION. Exams begin in just slightly less than three weeks. Some of you have spent the last three weeks in a sand trap!



● PRAYERS. Deceased: Grandfather of John Rammel of Keenan; grandfather of John Oliver of Lyons; friend of Leo Dilling of Dillon. Ill: Sister of Daniel Maher of Walsh; uncle and grandmother of Joe Finster of Dillon.



WEDNESDAY is the 42nd anniversary of the visit of Our Lady to the three children of Fatima. I am reminded of a letter that came a few weeks ago, after a televised basketball game during which the half-time viewers had been treated to a few shots of the campus. The writer said: Evidently, you have a great university, in many respects. However, there is something that disturbs me. We are all counting on the Catholic Church in combatting the Russians and their Communistic philosophy. But the cries of "ERROR!" that the Catholics make against the Russians sound so silly when the Church puts its weight behind such stories as "The Miracle of Fatima".... Surely, a Church that has given us such outstanding scientists as Mendel... cannot believe such ignorance as this! The three ignorant Portuguese children must have thought of the sun as a ball only a fraction the size of the earth.... And the tale of its plunging toward the earth could be believed only by the very ignorant."

THE WRITER, if unwilling to accept the testimony of the three children, might be persuaded by the words of the editor a paper regarded as the mouthpiece of the anti-Catholic forces in Portugal in 1917. When confronted with a request for a full and unbiased report on what he and heard at Fatima on October 13, the day of the miracle, the editor answered his inquirer:

"You were a believer when you were young, but ceased to be one. Relatives dragged you to Fatima and made you a part of the tremendous wave of people gathered there on Oct. 13. Your rationalism underwent a formidable clash, leaving you in doubt . . .

"Our eyes and ears witnessed the same things, but in spite of this, I shall not fail to fulfill your request. Few people stood insensible at the greatness of such a happening, unique in this country and by all means worthy of meditation and study. In the preceding gatherings of believers, some reported having seen peculiar as-

tronomical and atmospherical phenomena, which were regarded as signs of the direct intervention of God.

"Some reported sudden temperature drops, the scintillation of stars at midday, and beautiful clouds, never seen before, around the sun. Others spread the story that the Lady asked all to do penance, that she wanted a chapel to be erected at Fatima, and that on Oct. 13 she would show to all there, by means of a miraculous event, the infinite goodness and almighty power of God

"It was on this anxiously awaited, and now famous day, that thousands of people from nearby and distant places journeyed to Fatima notwithstanding all the difficulties and hardships of their journey. There was a most sudden change in the weather, heavy downpours turned the dusty roads into deep muddy stretches. But this touch of Wintry vigor in the mellowness of Autumn did not disturb, dissuade or change the minds of the pilgrims.

"The behavior of the crowd, consisting largely of peasants, was perfect, and the three children were very tenderly surrounded and all took off their hats and knelt to pray at the command of the children as the miracle hour approached, and they all awaited for that mystic hour, as predicted, for contact between heaven and earth.

"And just as I was about to conclude that I would see nothing more than this impressive, rumor-filled and peaceful crowd, I did see something else that was really strange. What did I see? At the predicted time, the rain stopped, the dense mass of clouds parted and there appeared the sun, as a pale silvery disc in its midday position. It started whirling in a violent convulsed manner that made many people liken its movement to a dance, as various, beautiful and sparkling colors successively covered the face of the sun.

"Was this a miracle as the people declared or a natural phenomenon as claimed by the sages? I am not concerned with the answer to this question; all I now care about is to affirm to you what I saw, the rest I leave to the Church and to science."

THIS eye-witness account of the miracle of the sun, should be convincing enough to remind us of the seriousness of the message of Our Lady: Pray and do penance and Russia will be converted.

*Gene Boorman, c.c.*  
Prefect of Religion