

# RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Wednesday, November 4, 1959

Notre Dame, Ind.

● FRIDAY OF THIS WEEK is the First Friday of the month of November--a good time to begin making the nine First Fridays referred to in the Bulletin last Monday. Over in the Church, on Friday afternoon, there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from Noon until 4:45 P.M. Benediction will be given at 4:45.

● ARE YOU MAKING THE NOVENA for the Poor Souls? Mass and Holy Communion daily--Nov. 2-11. Surely some of your relatives are in need of your prayers during this month.

● DON'T FORGET the Holy Hour in the Crypt, tomorrow afternoon at 4:45. The purpose of this Holy Hour is to provide an occasion for praying especially for the right choice of a state of life. And remember, now it is possible to gain a plenary indulgence each time you make such a Holy Hour.

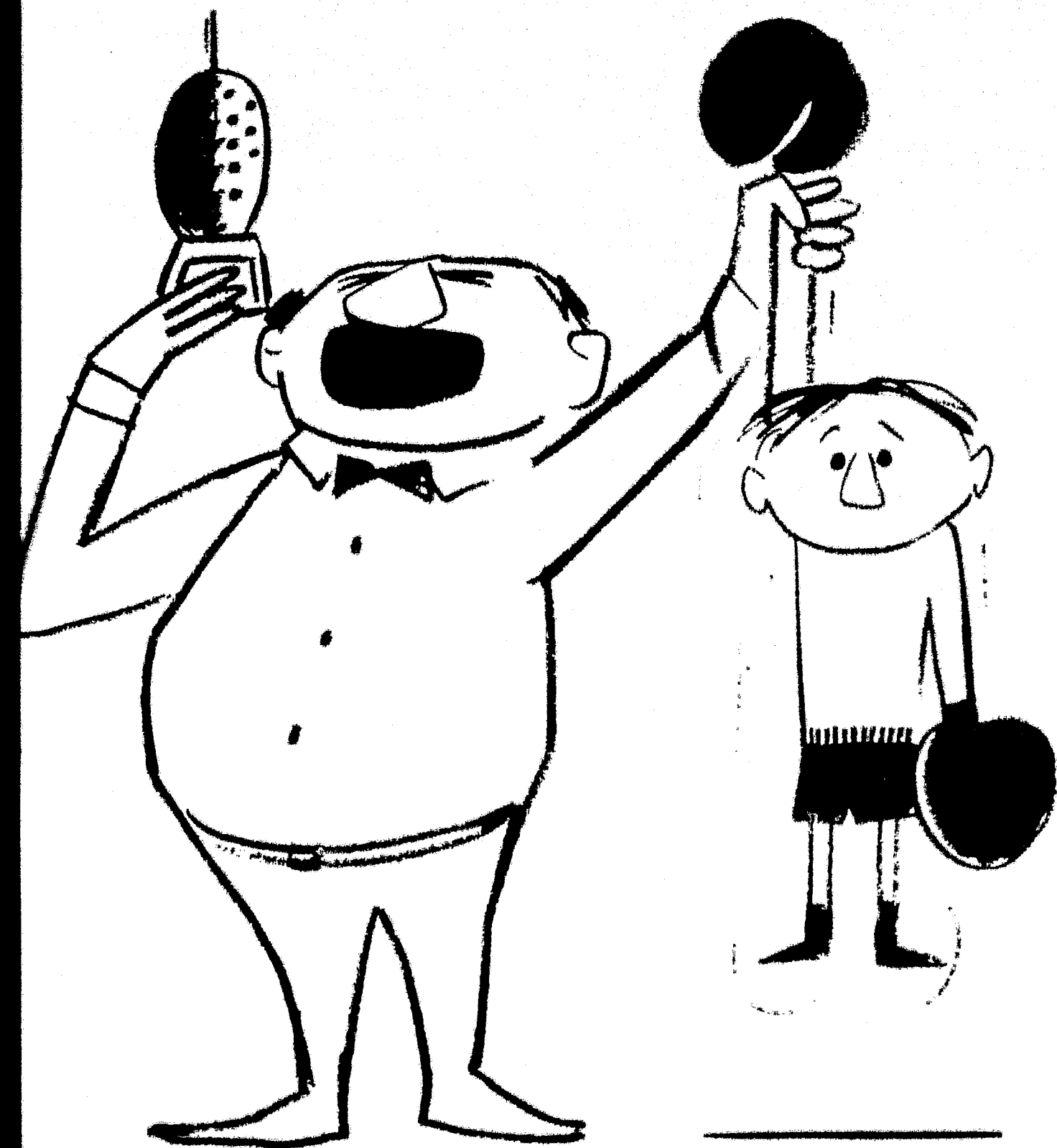
● PRAYERS. Deceased: Walter F. Kolb, '30. Ill: Prof. Ronald Rich of the Chem. Engr. Dept. (critical); six friends of Tim Hinchey of Dillon (auto accident); Jane Payton of the Athletic Office; Al Serva, '24; friend of John Dixon of Dillon; Chester S. Lampert, '42.

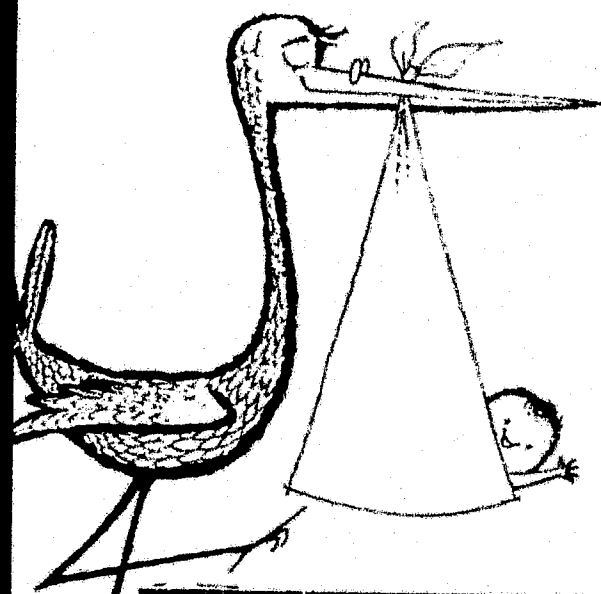
● THE PAMPHLET ROOM in Dillon is newly stocked. There you'll find Thomas Merton's No Man Is An Island. In it, Merton says:

Every Christian is part of my own body, because we are members of Christ. What I do is also done for them and with them and by them. What they do is done in me and by me and for me. But each one of us remains responsible for his own share in the life of the whole body.

CHARITY cannot be what it is supposed to be as long as I do not see that my life represents my own allotment in the life of a whole supernatural organism to which I belong. Only when this truth is absolutely central do other doctrines fit into their proper context.

● THE NOVICE BOXING tournament is underway and will uncover some new talent for the Bengal Bouts coming up in March. Those who participate in the Bouts give of their time and energy to put on a program to benefit those working in the missions of Bengal in East Pakistan. Over at Moreau Seminary, others are preparing themselves to actually go to the Missions either in Bengal or in Africa. But, what are you doing for the Church? Especially, the Church's missionary effort. Been ducking the issue? Have you been putting off deciding whether you have a missionary vocation? Sunday's your chance, maybe. The preacher will be a Holy Cross missionary just returned from the missions in Bengal. Maybe you'll find his life too rigorous, but, at least see if you can't help him financially.





JOE MULLIGAN, one of last June's graduates, sent along recently a note to which he added the following:

The police department of Houston, Texas, has issued a leaflet called "Twelve Rules for Raising Delinquent Children."

1. Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.
2. *When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will make him think he's cute. It will also encourage him to pick up "cuter" phrases that will blow off the top of your head later.*
3. Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is 21 and then let him "decide for himself."
4. *Avoid use of the word "wrong." It may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.*
5. Pick up everything he leaves lying around—books, shoes, and clothes. Do everything for him so that he will be experienced in throwing all responsibility on others.
6. *Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on. Be careful that the silver-ware and drinking glasses are sterilized, but let his mind feast on garbage.*
7. Quarrel frequently in the presence of your children. In this way they will not be too shocked when the home is broken up later.
8. *Give a child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have things as tough as you had them?*
9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink, and comfort. See that every sensual desire is gratified. Denial may lead to harmful frustration.
10. *Take his part against neighbors, teachers, policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.*
11. When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, "I never could do anything for him."
12. *Prepare for a life of grief. You will be likely to have it.*

WHY BRING THIS UP HERE? Well, you see, a day rarely passes that someone doesn't come in to talk about getting married. And, from time to time, one gets the impression that some aren't quite aware of the responsibility they are assuming in raising children. A writer in the current issue of HUMAN EVENTS, points out that the problem is wide-spread. While you may not be thinking of marriage within the next few years, still you'd do well to clip the "Twelve Rules" and think about this:

The tendency not to blame children for their misconduct is apparently matched by an equally pervasive tendency among adults to blame somebody else for not instilling in children, before they get in trouble, the sense of values and civilized behavior they desperately need. The producers of TV programs, comics, movies, and newspaper stories which suggest that violence and brutality are acceptable and ordinary say they are only turning out what the public wants. The social workers and psychiatrists proceed on the assumption that it is not their job to meddle with cultural and ethical values—which they assume the child already possesses. The teachers say they are already overburdened trying to teach reading and arithmetic, and it is up to the churches and parents to take care of manners and morals. But the churches' influence, to whatever extent they actually can teach children how to behave, is limited at best: a priest in an average Manhattan neighborhood estimates that less than a quarter of the children there are even remotely touched by religion. And the parents, even if they are not overwhelmed by their own problems as not to care, are usually hard pressed to know what values they themselves respect. In sum: almost no one seems willing and able to instill, simply and directly, a basic understanding of the difference between right and wrong.

The irony in all this is that children are obviously quick to learn what anyone takes the trouble to teach them. Over and over in talking with people who work with delinquents, I have been told that all children today are extremely conscious of their rights; they know all about them and they assert and insist on them. Our children have learned at least one lesson quite thoroughly: they know all about what society owes them. Apparently a lesson that hasn't been taught, at least so far, is what they owe society.