



*Sophomore Jerome Witzel was killed in an automobile accident during the Christmas holidays.*

Seldom does the Notre Dame family escape a vacation period without a death. Generally it strikes under most unusual circumstances. An automobile accident is one of the more usual ways in which death might come to the mobile Notre Dame student body on vacation, but the unusual circumstance about the death of Jerry Witzel is that it took place in Belgrade, Jugoslavia, and it reached into the same small group from which the last victim was claimed, the group studying in Innsbruck, Austria.

Jerry had left Innsbruck by car with Robert Kroblin and Carlos Hermosillo. This was to be their Christmas vacation jaunt. In the accident Robert Kroblin was critically injured. He lies in a hospital in Belgrade with a basal skull fracture. Latest reports are that he is off the critical list but still serious. Carlos Hermosillo escaped with superficial injuries.

The body of Jerry Witzel was shipped back home for burial and the funeral was conducted from St. Pius X church in Lombard, Illinois, last Saturday, January 2.

Remembrances in your Masses and prayers will bring solace to Jerry's bereaved parents and sister. A Requiem Mass for Jerry in Sacred Heart Church will be announced later.

Please remember also in your prayers Bob Kroblin that his recovery may be complete and speedy. And a prayer for Father Engleton and the students of the Innsbruck group will also be an act of charity. Death twice reaching into the midst of such a small, closely-knit group can deal a staggering blow to morale.

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Also during the Christmas holidays Dr. Paul Stokely, a member of the biology department from 1947 to 1957, succumbed to injuries sustained in an automobile accident. The accident happened near Cambridge, Ohio, on December 23. Death occurred on January 1. At the time of his death Dr. Stokely was head of the biology department in the College of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio.

About Books.....

MEETING THE THREAT TO CHRISTIANITY Our Christian Churches are under massive assault in the world today, says Kyle Haselden, the editor of The Christian Century. "For the first time in history," he tells us in a new volume entitled "What's Ahead for the Churches\*", the growth of the world's population is outstripping the growth of the Church. For the first time in history, Christianity is up against formidable foes, spiritual and/or physical, in every corner of the globe.

The nature of the threat, he says, varies from country to country. We find one kind of peril in North Africa, another in East Asia, and still another in South America, but whatever the variations, the danger is real and must be faced up to.

To help us face up to the danger, The Christian Century has invited specialists, representing a score of denominations, to offer their views as to what can and should be done about the present situation.

Most of the men who contribute to What's Ahead are penetratingly critical of the forms which our religious practices take in the modern world. Institutional modes of behavior, says one contributor to this volume, are usually well-adapted to the needs and occasions, not of the present century, but of the previous century. In most churches, the cultural lag approximates about three generations. In our Churches, forms easily become absolutized and idolized. Vital religious energies are sapped by routine. Mere accidentals become sacred to Church-members and are exempted from criticism.

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Actually the Catholic contributor to this volume seems more cheerful in his outlook than any of the other experts. "One of the most powerful influences affecting the present state of Catholic life and worship," says Fr. Bernard Cooke, "is our liturgical revival. There seems no question but there is taking place a most important swing from a devotional emphasis on religion to the more basic Christian attitude of living out the sacraments ..... This liturgical revitalization has already had a notable influence on architecture, sacred art and music, and is slowly having its impact on popular piety. As it gains ground -- and it is doing so with increased official support -- this movement will inevitably deepen and solidify our Christ-centeredness."

Our American Catholic community, he says, is today more positively coming to grips with the world around it -- with the world of scientific and technological advance. "More Catholics are realizing that the world to come will develop out of the Christianization of the world that is, and are increasingly accepting the role of living the truth and the charity of Christ in the midst of their brethren.

-- Claude L. Boehm

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\*Sheed and Ward, 1964, \$4.50

## TWELFTH NIGHT

Tomorrow, January 6, is the feast of Epiphany, the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season. It is the Twelfth Night of Shakespeare, the last of the "Twelve Days of Christmas" on which the true love gives gifts; it concludes the twelve days of Christmas-tide, the "proper season for rejoicing" (see the RELIGIOUS BULLETIN, December 4, 1964).



The Greek name for the feast, Epiphany, which means showing, manifestation, indicates that it began in the Church of the Near East. The Latin Church soon borrowed this feast from the Greek Christians, but whereas the East had stressed the manifestation of Christ's Divinity at His baptism by John in the Jordan the Church of the West was attracted by the star. Thus in the Western Church the Epiphany is sometimes called the "Feast of the Three Kings." The liturgy really mentions three manifestations: the adoration of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, and the miracle at the Cana wedding.

The Epiphany is also sometimes called the "Christmas of the Gentiles" for the Magi were Gentiles and through them the new-born Savior was manifested to the whole world. In some countries the custom of gift giving, in imitation of the offering of gold, frankincense, and myrrh by the Magi, is carried out on the Epiphany instead of on Christmas.

Stripped of the superficial trappings of Christmas, the feast of the Epiphany can manifest to us the sincerity and the depth of our Christian commitment. If, in the spirit of the liturgy, the ardor of our observance is comparable to that of Christmas, we have some assurance that the faith we professed on Christmas was not mere show like the tinsel and colored lights of the Christmas tree.

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ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD The Reverend Michael Conley, C.S.C., prefect of the fourth floor of Keenan Hall, was ordained a priest in Oakland, California, by Bishop Floyd L. Begin on December 19. Since September he has fulfilled the office of deacon by assisting with distribution of Holy Communion at the Sunday Masses in Sacred Heart Church. Next Sunday, January 10, he will celebrate a Solemn Mass in Keenan-Stanford chapel for the students of Keenan Hall. Details will be announced later.

For Freshmen Only.....

LONESOMEVILLE, U.S.A.

The unpacked suitcases stand half open in the corner, and clouds of smoke struggle to find an outlet in your room jammed wall-to-wall with jabbering, homesick magpies. First, it's the New Year's Eve party -- fabulous. Then, the Alumni dance at the Old Alma Mater -- what a blast, swapping stories with the 'old gang'. The skating party in Wisconsin, the beach party in L.A., your girl's new orange wig -- all come up for review. And don't forget the night you twisted yourself into a state of near exhaustion.

Three weeks of no books, no night-checks, no classes, and no pressure -- it was great. But leaving Mom and Dad and the warmth of home and saying good-bye to that certain somebody at the train or plane, these are the things that keep haunting you. It's rougher now than it was in September. So to keep yourself from feeling too lonely you tell and re-tell all the details of your various escapades and riotous good times. And with each telling you desperately clutch and try to hold on to your bygone experiences.

But always, like a huge black cloud, there looms the "Big" ugly exams. All the reminiscence and nostalgia can't hold back the inevitable. They're coming; they're knocking at the door. You know from past experiences that putting off study and review till the last night spells sudden-death. It's tough getting back into the routine of study and class. It's even tougher trying to keep the home and Mabelene out of your every waking hour. What's a fella to do?

There'll be other vacations. But these first semester exams come only once. In a very real sense they determine your academic fate. So when you hit those Blue Books, you'd better have everything in a "GO" position. Is everything in your life "A-O.K."?

-- Father Baker, C.S.C.

P.S. There aren't any rules for success that work, unless you do.

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IN YOUR CHARITY please pray for the following: Deceased -- wife of Professor James Dincolo of the department of accountancy; Charles J. Spinelli, '31; Theodore A. Thomas; grandfather of Ken Socha of Dillon; father of Father John Driscoll, C.S.C.; William F. Ryan, '24; J. Thomas Traugher, '28; Thomas F. Hearnden, '27; Francis D. Rolwing, '26, brother of Merlin, '23; Thomas A. Welch, '43; Joseph A. Gibbons, '17; Matthew Walsh, '51; Vincent A. Stace, '28; father of John Peter Hribar, '58. Ill -- Sister M. Ruth, O.S.F., of Oldenburg, Indiana; mother of John Dee, basketball coach; Dick Phelan, Sr., '28; Father Albert Schlitzer, C.S.C., head of the theology department; Brother Robert O'Brien, C.S.C., porter of Corby Hall.