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RELIGIOUS BULLETIN



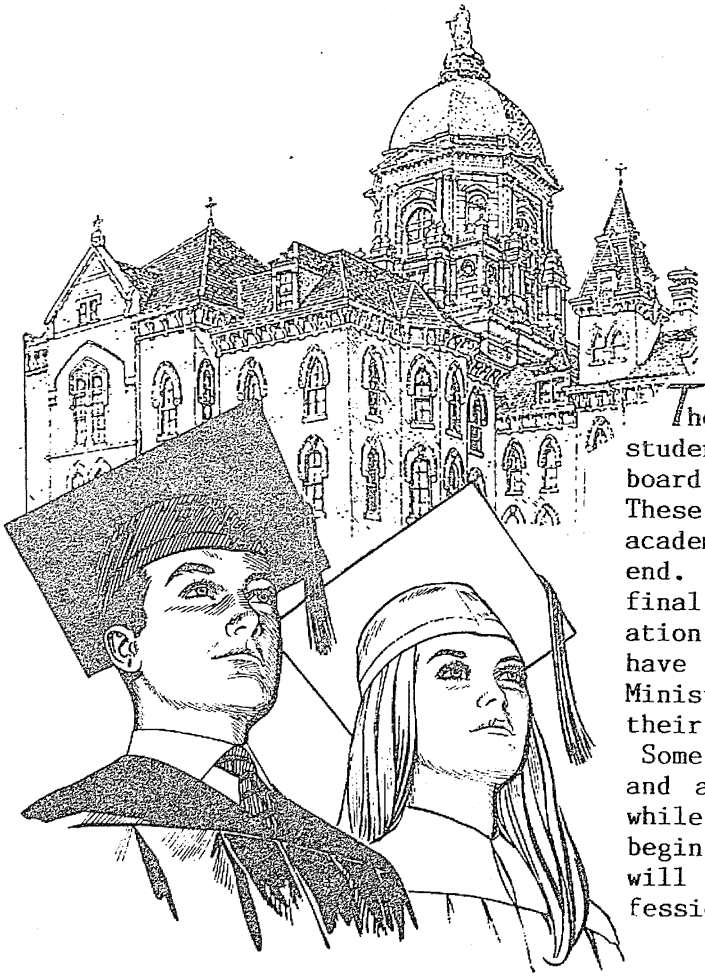
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University of Notre Dame

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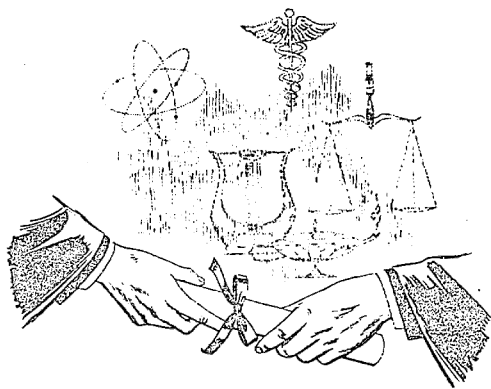
Final Exams
and
Graduation

Fr. Andre Leveille, CSC



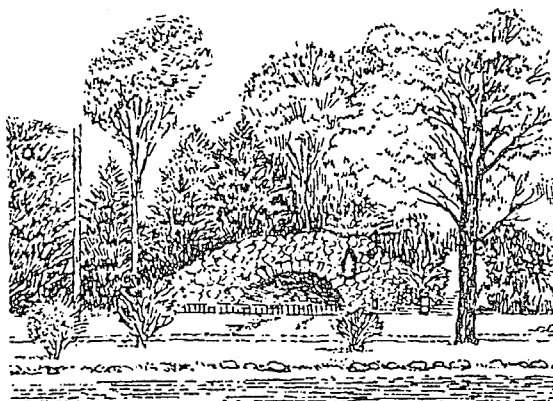
The lofts are down and the students are buying large cardboard boxes from the bookstore. These are sure signs that our academic year is coming to an end. In a few days will be final exams and shortly graduation. Many of the seniors have dropped by the University Ministry Office and have shared their plans for the future. Some are beginning new jobs and are busy finding apartments while others are preparing to begin graduate studies which will lead to their chosen profession.

Graduation is a time of celebration for having achieved another important milestone in one's life. At the same time there is a bit of sadness with having to leave Notre Dame. This is not only true of the seniors but also for those of us who remain here. We've learned to appreciate and love many of our students during the past four years and will indeed be missing them.



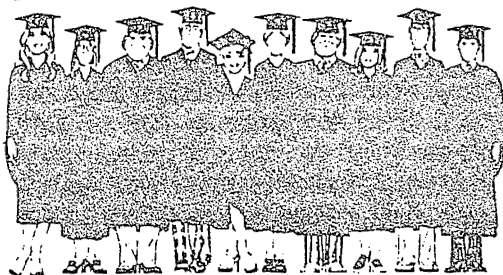
Last Sunday we had our own Bishop John D'Arcy come to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation at Sacred Heart Church on campus. Over 30 students were confirmed in their faith with many of their family and friends in attendance. During his homily the Bishop told a story which I think would be important for our seniors to hear. Several years ago he was flying from Chicago to Boston when a young man introduced himself in the following

way, "Bishop, you're going the wrong way! Tomorrow Notre Dame plays USC in South Bend!" The conversation went on and the young man told Bishop D'Arcy about his wonderful years at Notre Dame which included moments of faith in attending mass on campus. Now, however he and his wife also a graduate of Notre Dame were no longer going to mass on Sundays. After the flight they parted and the Bishop hoped and prayed in his heart that one day this young Notre Dame graduate would find his way back to the table of the Lord. The Bishop went on with his homily by stating that for most young Catholics their faith is challenged when they go to college. It seemed to be different with the young men and women who attend Notre Dame. The challenge for them seems to be after graduation when they proceed to the world of work and graduate school. The life of undergraduates at Notre Dame is conducive to the following and practice of one's Catholic faith.



I hesitate to speak in broad generalities but I think that perhaps Bishop D'Arcy had a point to make in the retelling of his encounter with the Notre Dame graduate. Yes, I too believe that many of the seniors graduating will be experiencing some challenge of their beliefs and in the practicing of their faith. In the months and years ahead, going to mass will require more than walking downstairs to the chapel or over to Sacred Heart Church. I do however believe that the majority of our graduating seniors will be able to meet the challenge. Many of them have matured a great deal at Notre Dame and have internalized their faith beliefs. Why do I say this? Because this past year I have spent many long hours in discussion with seniors about their faith and their future. Many have honestly worked through some of their doubts and questions during the past four years.

Lastly, I want to say to the seniors that those of us left behind here at Notre Dame who are believers want to express our care and prayers for each one of you as you begin a new and exciting stage in your lives. We believe that many of you will certainly lift up your hearts to the Lord in prayer as you make your last visit to the grotto and offer thanks at the Baccalaureate Mass. From now on you will be remembered at mass daily at Notre Dame as we pray for our friends, alumni and benefactors. May Our Lady...Notre Dame continue to watch over you.



Monday, May 5: Pax Christi Notre Dame will host a Prayer Vigil for Peace at the Grotto at 10:00p.m.

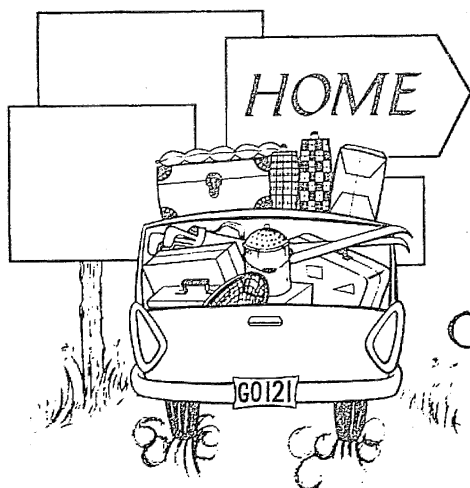
PRAYER BEFORE EXAMINATIONS

Lord,
it seems as though our lives
are one test after another,
weighing us in somebody's balance.

Save us from taking the coming tests
too seriously or too lightly,
but grant that we may reflect
the best of the work we've done
and the best of the teaching we've received;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

- DAY BY DAY
The N.D. Prayerbook for Students



FAREWELL
from the
Office of University Ministry