Guide for Freshmen

The Basement Chapel. — The "soul" of Notre Dame. It is under the rear of the church. It contains eighteen altars upon which Mass is offered every morning. It is the hall chapel for Brownson and Carroll halls, and on account of its facilities for confessions in the morning it is patronized by students from all the halls — four hundred or more every morning, on an average. To the credit of Notre Dame be it said that the floors in the basement chapel has to be replaced more often than the floors in the refectories. The slab in the floor marks the grave of Orestes A. Brownson, the great convert-philosopher.

The Log Chapel. — "The cradle of Catholicity in Northern Indiana." This chapel is a replica of one built by Father Badin, the first priest ordained in the United States, whose body lies under the chapel. Father Badin served the Indians of this region from this chapel until shortly before his death; and he bought for the Bishop of Vincennes the tract of land that first became Notre Dame. The altar, candlesticks and prie-dieu of Father Badin are still in use in this chapel. The painting on the wall represents the last communion of Father Labouille, Father Badin's successor, who received Holy Viaticum from his own hands, while he is supported by faithful Indians. The Log Chapel lies just west of the library, next to "Old College," the first building put up by Father Sorin, the founder of Notre Dame.

The Grotto. — When Ralph Adams Cram visited the University last year he pronounced the Grotto the most perfect piece of art on the grounds. It is a faithful reproduction of the shrine at Lourdes, where so many thousands have been cured. It is a favorite retreat for meditation and earnest prayer. There are Grotto Clubs in some of the halls — groups of students who pledge themselves to visit the Grotto every day. It has been customary in the past for the candelabra at the Grotto to be filled with lighted candles during each football game.

Calvary and the Way of the Cross. — Just west of Moreau Seminary (at the northwest favorite retreat for prayer). The proper approach to Calvary is by making the outdoor "Way of the Cross," which you will find winding around the western end of the lake, in the neighborhood of the Community House.

The Community Cemetery. — Beyond Holy Cross Seminary, on the road to St. Mary's, The Community Cemetery lies to your left. The founders of Notre Dame lie buried there, under the shadow of the dome they helped to build. The grave most visited in the cemetery is that of Brother Columba, whose devotion to the Sacred Heart wrought so many cures of mind and body. Brother Columba died about two years ago, and his intercession is still sought by thousands of afflicted.

The Sorin Hall Chapel. — The chapel in Sorin Hall is not marked by any comeliness, but it has been the scene of great sacrifices at times. Holy Communion is distributed in this chapel at any hour of day or night. The earliest distribution in recent years has been at 12:10 a.m.; the latest at 7:00 p.m. Those who cannot receive Holy Communion at the regular Masses are accommodated here. A bell at the chapel door calls a priest: ringing twice for confession and once for Holy Communion.

The Novitiate. — The chief interest of students in the Novitiate lies in the fact that it is a distributing center for Water of Lourdes. It is also the publication office of the Annals of Our Lady of Lourdes, and the seat of the Arconfraternity of the Immaculate Conception.

Prayers are requested for three sick people and for five special intentions.