Wondered by PRAYERS: daily Some comparative moisten it with the tears of novel emotion of piety. If ore four generations of unheeded, and that some of you will try ~neration fruit; but if it remains 11 Some fell a.mong the thorns that and some on the rock. They did not cultivate the soil to give nourishment to a plant for a time. They played out -- or prayed out. No more pep!  

Our Blessed Lord describes these cases in the parable of the sower. Besides the seed that fell on good ground, you will recall that some fell by the wayside, some among thorns, and some on the rock. We are not concerned here with the seed that fell by the wayside and was trampled under foot with no chance to take root; some time before Trinity Sunday we will speak of them. But notice how the parable fits two other groups:

"Some fell upon a rock." There is often enough dirt gathered in a crevice or depressic in a rock to give nourishment to a plant for a time. A plant may get a start under such circumstances and be transplanted to good soil where it will flourish and bear fruit; but if it remains where it is it will give a fresh, green promise for a while, and then wither away. Some souls began a spiritual life this year; they were shallow, they did not cultivate the soil and dig deep with spiritual reading, they did not moisten it with the tears of self-denial. The feeble plant has died.

"Some fell among thorns." Away from the distractions of the world at Notre Dame, in comparative isolation, plunged into a Mission their first week in school, and surrounded by better example than they had ever known before in their lives, some students began daily Communion in September without knowing what it really meant, carried away by a novel emotion of piety. Christmas took them back to the world they knew, the world of gin babies and jazz, the world of splurge and dizziness; they rubbed their eyes and wondered where they had been. There was no real turning to God in their hearts, and the thorns that were there all the time choked the life of the plant. They played out.

Some of them will never come back to daily Communion, no matter how long they remain at Notre Dame. They haven't the background to appreciate it. It usually takes three or four generations of strong faith to produce deep spirituality, and they haven't even one generation to fall back upon: money is morning and night prayer in the home, and social is Faith, Hope and Charity. Some others will do well if they seek spiritual advice.

PRAYERS: John Dorgan's father died yesterday; Fred -- sensing and another student ask for their fathers, who are undergoing operations. Three special intentions.