"My dear friends: Men of Notre Dame,

"During the recent Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes, there were 12,040 Communions on the campus. I was so fortunate as to be one of those remembered in your prayers. You must know that I am most appreciative for all you have done and are doing in behalf. True Christians, Fred, are distinguished by their love for one another.

"During the recent novena, in so far as we know, no physical miracle took place among those for whom we offered prayers. As Catholics we know that that fact is relatively unimportant." That's right. Christ prefers to change sinners into saints than water into wine. It is the Kingdom of God we must seek first.

"Each prayer said does some good somehow. Some day we shall know all about it." That is almost St. Paul: "We see now through a glass, in a dark manner, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know even as I am known." Some happy day you will see what good your patience and resignation are doing.

"Why do I always smile? Because God has been good and has given me the grace so to do. It seems that when He sees fit to send us a trial, He also sends a special grace with which to carry on." Yes, Fred, and it is a grace sufficient to meet every temptation and trial.

"The letters I receive from strangers are numerous. Among the most cheerful and encouraging are those written by fellow invalids." Keep spreading that cheer. The world will never smile till it thrills with the joy of Christ Our Lord.

"Since the time that I became ill, I have prayed that I might do my part gracefully, and without complaint. God has answered me generously. Nearly all of us experience the blues now and again. My blue days are less frequent now than they were at Notre Dame." Isn't it strange how men on the campus can grow glum when it rains or peeved when the girl friend doesn't come through with her daily dispatch?

"A smile denotes happiness. I am happy because I know God loves me. If He did not, He would not bother sending me this tribulation." It has always been true, God loves those He chastises. The servant is not above His Master. Yet if we suffer with Him, we shall reign with Him.

"What are my chances of recovery? I feel that, barring the miraculous, I will never again be able to breathe wholly independently. In this we can merely say, 'God's will be done.' During the last several months I have learned the true meaning of subjection to God's holy will. Sometimes I feel I should not like to fully recover, for fear of losing a part of what I have gained spiritually." By your faith, Fred, you have, like the three disciples on Thabor, caught a glimpse of God's glory and majesty. One day your faith will melt into the Beatific Vision of God.

"Many persons have told me that I have helped them in a spiritual way. This of course makes me very happy. If by doing my bit, I help even one person along the right path towards our objective, then it is all worth while and I am perfectly content to continue playing the part of the Boiler Kid. Thank you again for your continued prayers." Well, Fred, "Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends." For many you are giving your life every day.

PRAYERS: (deceased) mother of Fr. John O'Connell C.S.C.; Sister M. Paschavie; friend of Bob Campbell (How); grandfather of Jim Cleary (Mor); Mr. Frank Fox; Tommy Brookes (Daven Col.); Rev. James Gallahan (Chic.); friend of Joe Gartland ('27); aunt of H. Gottaesacker (Dil). Ill, Henry Hughes (Cav); Bob Bradley (Cav); Russell Tamberelli and father (N.J.); grandmother of Ed. Hannon (Lyons); Sr. Cyril, cousin of Bob Witchger, (Lyons); mother of Gene Ely (Dil); mother of Tom Donahue (Mor). - Ten spec. intentions.