St. Thomas Lives In Zahm Hall--I.

It is the distinct misfortune of sinners that, during their lifetime, they rather despise the only people who could be of any real assistance to them, the saints; not the saints who are in glory or who have already been canonized, but the saints who are in the making.

Many a Notre Dame sinner prays to Teresa of Lisieux; or has a devotion to St. Anthony; and many hundred are found at the Grotto, sincerely interceding with the Mother of All Saints. But when it comes to cultivating the friendship or asking the help of those students who, by their present lives, show intimate contact with God, we are sincerely remiss.

When St. Thomas was a student at Monte Cassino, and later, at Naples, he rubbed shoulders with hundreds of young men, no better and, indeed, no worse than you are. Stop to think of the mental shock to those hundreds who, thirty years after their school days, came to realize that their only title to greatness would be the fact that they had been fellow-students of Aquinas. Or think of their chagrin as they understood that, during those school days, they had had a very low esteem of that truly great man.

Let us make the picture concrete. Aquinas enrolls at Notre Dame. (That is Notre Dame’s good fortune, and yours). His folks are wealthy. The young student can have anything he wants. In fact, his parents wish to heaven he would mix more with the boys, go on a few reckless—not too reckless—week-ends, spend more money on his friends, enlarge the circle of his acquaintances, keep up the appearance which, they urge, are due to his station.

But no! He spends all his time at his books. He prays a lot, going off to the Church when no one else is there; goes to the Sacraments with too much regularity; doesn’t get into any of those little sessions with the other boys; won’t gamble, won’t take even a little bet; seems to have an uncanny sense of modesty, which makes the "real" fellows uncomfortable in his presence; doesn’t seem to break under the continued bally-ragging of his "friends" who try to "wise him up". What a life!

Maybe it’s his money? Maybe he’s just smooty because his folks are rich? Still, he never parades his wealth; he dresses, but commonly. Nor is he ever heard to refer in any way to the fortune or position of his family.

Maybe he has some queer idea about morals or religion? Does he have the idea that one can’t be a real fellow and still save his soul? Is he trying to give the impression that the rest of them are all hell-bent for the big fire? And still, perhaps not. For he treats everybody with an exquisite courtesy, and that is strange, for, by and large, the crowd has been pretty rude to him; some of them, just plain mean.

So Thomas Aquinas is a freshman in Zahm Hall—anyhow, he’s a freshman at Notre Dame.

(to be continued).

Ease Is No School Of Moral Progress.

The moral coward fools no one. He may kid himself by selecting a few easy resolutions. But his Lent will be a sham. He knows it will be, too, but he doesn’t give a hang....well, neither did Judas.

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PRAYERS: (deceased) Mrs. Kate Donahue; Mr. Peter Carroll; Hugh J. Sheaean, friend of Walt Brennan (Cav); Miss Agnes C. Moore (Boston); uncle of Bill (Sorin) and Joe (Nor) Mothey; friend of Tom Shiels (Al); Sister Michael of the Holy Face; and Sister Winifred Dolores of the Sacred Heart (Cleveland); Patrick Geary; Frank Flaherty. Ill, John Guggisberg (Al); Dick Benedict (Dil); Frank O'Laughlin (Walsh); Rev. C.W. Sadlie C.P. (Columbus, Ohio); grandfather of Bob Thomas (Fresh); friend of Bill O'Toole. 6 spec ints.