University of Notre Dame
RELIGIOUS BULLETIN
February 13, 1940

True to His Very Last Rubric

You may have thought that you knew "the bean," but you probably didn't. You thought he was gruff. That was only his front to scare some sense into senseless, irresponsible freshmen. There must be no fooling in the College of Science.

You thought he was too stern and exacting. That was his game. Tucked beneath his broad chest beat a stout, kind heart as big as the man. Yesterday morning, less than an hour before he dropped dead in his "home," the Biology Building, he had stopped off for a bite to eat in the Corby kitchen. "Father, get back to bed," said the cook. But Father replied, "No, I want to get over to see my boys."

You were his intimates. Still, he preferred to "enjoy his storms" than to tell you that. He figured that the easier, popular technique of falling all over you could never produce science students who could stand the gauntlet of hardy academic and moral discipline. He felt that without his so-called merciless method one of the most distinguished student groups on the campus could not have been born. Now the Academy of Science stands grateful guard at his bier.

He was never known, not once, to refuse what was best for you. But he was like a rock; and most assuredly so if you flunked out of science and then had the nerve to ask him to fix it. Steam and spout as you might, your grades stayed the same. But you learned a life-long lesson in principles.

You thought him relentless and relentless he was like Louis Pasteur and Madame Curie and our own Father Xenon who invented Hupron. What true scientist yet has discovered any worthwhile fruit save by the endless toil of planting, cultivating, pruning, plucking and planting all over again?

Father Wenninger was more than an efficient teacher and dean of Science. He was a solid good man and a zealous, generous-hearted priest. Venerable Mr. Dan Hanley will tell you of his love for the Mass. Backwards and forwards he knew the liturgical rubrics, knew them so well that for years he was the University's Master of Ceremonies. Always he had a convert or two on the side for instructions. And his preaching was vigorous, dogmatic, remorse and convincing. Only last week, despite the pressure of work and his harassing ill health, he agreed to talk, April coming, on "Religious Indifference." One extra-curriculum lecture downtown or beyond followed after another. Doep was his devotion to Mary, for back in his earliest childhood in Austria his god early mother had consecrated his life to the Virgin Mother. That is why he so often "taught" for the more solemn observances of Our Lady's feasts.

"April coming. . ." Like all men who have died before his time, Father Wenninger taught the last true lesson we shall all have to teach to a vanishing world. Exactly one week ago today, he scolded the foreheads of hundreds of you with sacramental aise. Now he is dead. Last Sunday at seven o'clock, Mass was offered for Bill Mcele; then at ten, for the next two . . ." In less than twenty four hours, "the next two" was he.

Tomorrow at nine in Sacred Heart Church Bishop O'Hara will perform the last rite for the very last time Father Wenninger taught the last true lesson we shall all have to teach to a vanishing world. Tomorrow at nine in Sacred Heart Church Bishop O'Hara will perform the last rite for the very last time.

PRAyERS (devoted) father of Bob Beaumont (Merr); mother of Mr. Grenier, S.D. Mr. Mary Lynch, friend of Frank Guindon (Walt); aunt of Vera Beiner (BP); Mr. Lomo (Ch); father Paul of the Atonement Friars (Garri
don, N.Y.); (Mr.) John of "True." (Walt); grandmother of Vernon Van Epps, C.P.S.; friend of Lou Bell (Z); cousin of Bill Clark (Ch); Edward Schaefer and Albert Holm (Chee); son of Jan Spielmann (Corby); friend of Jack O'Brien (Z); mother of Lou Mersy (Al); friend of Bill Crewey (Rib); Mr. Lewia Brandon (Ch); father of Maurice Renault (Rib); brother of Ed Voede (O); Gerry McNeil (Bro); parents of Archie Strong (Ch); mother of Peter Alonzi (Walt); sister of Bob Clark (July); six sacred intentions.