Van Wallace and His Mother.

The Annals of St. Joseph, the magazine of St. Joseph's Shrine, Montreal, discusses Van, a former student, and his mother. They'll be here Saturday, as usual.

"Seventeen years ago Van suffered a broken neck, but continues to live, and continues to smile. The cot on which he is carried was patented by himself. During the month of August, Van, accompanied by his parents, motored to St. Joseph's Oratory to ask St. Joseph for a cure. Although many fervent prayers were offered, he failed to obtain his favor. As several of the priests were chatting with him and his father after their visit to the church, his good mother slipped away quietly and we soon saw her coming up the stairs on her knees. She was exploring St. Joseph to obtain a cure for her beloved son."

"God heard her prayer, but not in the way she expected. Instead of curing her son, He cured her of an infirmity that had been causing her much suffering. For the first time in years she walked down a stairs without any difficulty. She did not notice the sudden change at the time so taken up was she in trying to obtain a cure for Van. From here they continued on to St. Ann's, but stopped again on their way home to thank St. Joseph for the cure the mother obtained without even asking for it. Van was still smiling. He knew that God was asking him to offer up his suffering. He would find happiness in it. Love would render the yoke sweet and the burden light."

Van hasn't been cured yet, but in 17 years he hasn't whimpered, whined or criticized, either, when things haven't pleased him. When he's here on the campus Saturday, he gets to Mass and Communion, in traditional Mary's Day manner. When he's here on Sunday, he goes to the High Mass and receives Communion in gratitude for a fine weekend, and in petition. What a contrast to the big, healthy upperclassman who sleeps late Sunday morning, but can't fast until the 10 o'clock Mass to receive Christ in adoration, reparation and thanksgiving, at least in gratitude for his health! Out of 1300 upperclassmen at last Sunday's 10 o'clock Mass, 240 received Communion!

Mother's Day Tomorrow!

Tomorrow is Mother's Day. Saturday is the day of the week dedicated by the Church for special honor to Mary. Some asked whether the term, Mother of men, isn't just a sentimental phrase, without any real meaning. On the contrary, the theologians of the Church are very certain and exact in their use of this term.

The term, Mother, is used in a real (though analogical), and not fictitious, sense. She begets us in the supernatural life - the state of grace - and in that sense is as truly our Mother as our natural one. She is the second Eve, in other words. As the Second Eve and as Mother of Christ, she is Mother of all members of the Mystical Body. In this role, she is a means or channel of grace to members of the Mystical Body.

She really became our Mother on Calvary, because it was there that Redemption was accomplished definitively. As He hung on that Cross, Christ's words, "Behold thy Mother", were not restricted to St. John, by any means. After Calvary, she continues as a channel of grace in her maternity over us just as Christ's work is continued after Calvary in dispensing His graces and merits to us.

Tomorrow is Mother's Day, gentlemen. Does it mean anything to sons of Notre Dame, besides a football game?