Are You Ready To Die?

A Notre Dame man, now a priest - Father Speer Strahan - tells you a few details of life on the Pacific war front in the March issue of the Catholic Digest. One story is worth remembering. It was in the hospital while the priest was making his round of visits that an injured soldier, a young man, called to the chaplain and begged, "Father, let me go to Communion tomorrow. It's my birthday".

"And the next morning, fresh from Holy Communion he was wheeled into the operating room for what seemed only a slight ordeal, yet he died upon the table, and the priest, hurriedly summoned, had just time to anoint him with the single unction upon the forehead, as he breathed his last. And as he lay peaceful in death, "breast to breast with God," one noticed on his left shoulder there was tattooed the one word, DUCKY."

Lucky - to die a happy death, prepared by Holy Communion and Extreme Unction? Not at all. The fact that this young man had a love for the Eucharist showed that he had an abiding love of Christ, his God. This happy death - it may have looked like luck. It wasn't. With God nothing happens by chance. This lad by his virtuous life as a civilian and then as a soldier was preparing for this grace. It looked like luck, but to the angels and saints it was a blessing merited by a good life. He did not fail God, and God did not fail him.

Don't hope to be LUCKY. You must merit a happy death. The student or soldier who won't try to untangle himself from sin and strengthen himself in virtue by means of the Mass, the sacraments and prayer is planting the seeds of an unhappy death. Are you ready to die at this moment? Who would welcome you? Christ or the devil? Get to Confession tonight. Pray and build up resistance by daily Communion. Try and keep trying, and God won't fail you.

PRAYERS: (Deceased) uncle of Bill Quinn (Bro); mother of Lyle ('27) and Henry ('21) Morency. (Ill) in infirmary, Bill Santocki (O-C); mother of Jack Cleary (B-P)