(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME) University of Notre Dame Religious Bulletin April 21, 1944

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The Rear Guard.

He strolls into Mass at the "Sanctus,"
Or maybe a moment before.
And, lest he should bother his neighbors
He drops on one knee at the door.

Good seats near the altar are vacant,
In fact there is room and to spare.
But why should he push himself forward?
He's be so conspicuous there.

He doesn't look up at the altar,
But keeps his gaze bent on the floor;
We notice him yawning a little
As though it were rather a bore.

He squats for the last benediction,
And then, ere the service is through
We look for him there in the background,
And find he has melted from view.

So strange! Now, we fancy we saw him
Last night at the vaudeville show;
It seemed to us then he was fighting
To get in the very front row.

He must have been there before seven —
Or surely some minutes before —
He headed the line that was waiting
Outside the gallery door:

And when the door opened, good gracious!
How active he was in the race
Upstairs, and then over the benches
And down to the very first place.

My! how he applauded the singing
And laughed at the jokes that were cracked.
His eyes never leaving the footlights —
Transfixed to the very last act.

This can't be the same man this morning —
This slowest and dullest of chaps.
We must have seen some other fellow
Last evening — his brother perhaps. — T.A. Daly.

Father Ill's Golden Jubilee.

Fifty years ago—the fathers of some of you had not been born at the time, old Sorin Hall had not even been planned—Father Bernard Ill, C.S.C. was ordained a priest in Sacred Heart Church. Yesterday, Father Ill offered a solemn Mass to commemorate his half century in the priesthood. Old grads may not remember the name of this jubilarian. Yet they will recall the priest who on blistered winter days would take his regular walk towards the firehouse—coatless. Father Ill is back on the job today, teaching German, the first subject he taught when he started his career fifty-seven years ago. Notre Dame has been blessed with the priestly and teaching ministrations of Father Ill for forty-eight years. We thank him, and we beg God's choicest graces for His kind, cheerful, and zealous Alter Christus.