Novena for Poor Souls,
13th (Wed.) until 21st
Hand in Names.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 12, 1946

Confessions tonight at
6:30 in Basement chapel
and at Night Prayer.

Novena Begins Wednesday.
Down in Brazil a Catholic farmer keeps a
small plot of his field reserved for the Poor
Down in Brazil a Catholic farmer keeps a
small plot of his field reserved for the year
at time he sells the crop, and brings the pro-
ceeds to the church for Masses for the dead.
Of course there is a hint for you in this
story.

You ought to help your friends and relatives
who may be in Purgatory. First, make a list
of your deceased friends and drop it in the
envelope attached to the bulletin board in
your hall. Nine consecutive Masses will be
offered for these souls, beginning Wednesday.
Secondly, attend Mass yourself for nine days.

LEAVE NAMES IN
ENVELOPE ON
BULLETIN BOARD

Those who sweep out Sacred Heart Church frequently find little slips of paper with
prayers written on them, along with the assurance that if the prayer is said so many
times, copied and passed along to others, the favor requested will inevitably be
granted by God.

The following was found in the church recently. It was entitled "Never-failing
Novena." "May the sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, honored, adored and glorified
now and forever. Amen." Repeat the above six times a day, and each day leave a copy
in the church. At the end of six days your request will be granted. This prayer has
never been known to fail."

We have no objection to the prayer; it is thoroughly Catholic. But the counsel given
is a violation of the First Commandment. It is superstition, because it places the
efficacy of prayer in details not authorised by God or by His mouthpiece the Church.

Moral Guidance by Healy has this to say about chain prayers. "Chain prayer is a
superstitious practice which consists in the saying of certain prayers successively
by many individuals who hope for the favors requested, not so much from God's good-
nesses as from the magic effect of this unbroken series of prayers. A written or
printed prayer is sent to the person who is to form one of the links in the chain. He
is requested to say this prayer and to continue the chain by persuading others to
take up the praying where he leaves off. These others in turn are to pass the prayer
on to still others, etc."

"It is evident how irrational it is to place the efficacy of my prayer in the bare
fact of continuance accomplished, for the most part by others. Whence does such
prayer derive the special power which is attributed to it? God surely has not promised
to answer petitions because they are made under such conditions. Prayer will be fruit-
ful only when it is said with the proper dispositions; that is, when it is said by one
in the state of grace with humility, confidence, perseverance and attention."

Destroy chain prayers when you find them. It is sinful to participate in this form
of superstition.

(DECLAR) ... George Obermeier of Dillon hall and Pontiac, Mich., died Saturday night
in New York. (More details later). (ACCIDENT) Larry McLafferty and Marshall
Prunty, both of Badin, were severely burned and cut when thrown from the student train
on its arrival in South Bend. They are in the hospital. Pray for them and George.