Have You Been Confirmed?

Second call for students not yet confirmed. A class will be confirmed in Sacred Heart Church May 5. Turn in your name at once to Father Fagin, 107 Cavanaugh, or to Father Grim, 117 Dillon. To neglect this opportunity could very well involve you in serious sin.

"Dear Father: I'm in a hospital clearing section in Wonju, Korea. . . My temperature is back to normal now, and I'm feeling fine, so I'm about ready to go back to duty.

"I've seen quite a bit of action, and the more I see the more I realize that prayers for the conversion of Russia is our best weapon. That's the only way we'll get to the core of this trouble. Russia can send her satellite nations against us for years, and still we'd be no further ahead than we are now. Get those guys back at school hot on the prayers, Father. Get them to pray and offer Masses and Communions for the conversion of Russia so guys like me can get home and finish school..."

This is from Howard A. Kelly of the Marine Corps, who was a sophomore living in Sorin Hall in 1949-50. But it would take scores of letters like this one to arouse the somnolent out of their after-Lent lethargy. If there were more concern about making deals with God than in making deals with the Armed Forces we might avoid that apathy which is making pikers out of so-called patriots.

This loss of enthusiasm for continuing the good work of Lent will have sorry consequences. If we are proving to ourselves that we have no persevering passions for great causes, no great hatreds of evil, whether it be of Communism or of Crime-and-Politics combines, we are not only dead on our feet but have one foot in the grave.

When the soul leaves the body you do not have merely a soul-less body, but the beginning of dissolution. What the soul is to the body God is to the soul. If He does not dwell there, the soul is dead, dissolution sets in, and the great bulwark against evil --God's presence is non-existent.

Take An Honest Look.

Study your history. It will prove to you that a society which ignores religion never becomes just a non-religious society--it becomes anti-religious. Religion is a vital force which resists the power of evil to destroy. Once this resistance to those powerful forces ends, decay sets in.

Take the student who does not practice his religion. He is not merely non-religious but usually anti-religious. He will shout his protests to the high heavens that religion is being rammed down his throat. He gets on his high horse, becomes indignant whenever Mass checks, Night Prayers, Benediction, coming on time for Sunday Masses, are pointed out as minimum obligations.

Your education here should prepare you to make a living while you are sanctifying your soul. You are taught to seek first the Kingdom of God. If this education overlooks the soul, it is, in the true sense, not education at all. So let's cut out all this dillydallying and get back to the Sacraments. The most important lesson you have to learn at Notre Dame, if you have not learned it yet, is to live habitually in the state of grace. The greatest tragedy in your life will be if you die without it.

Prayers: (deceased) Mother of Rev. Carl Hager, C.S.C.; Mr. Louis Reed, '00; the buddy of Bill Ivinsy missing in action; mother of Ernest Keenan, '42.