We're only in the first quarter, and the Irish are giving ground already. It's a fact. We talked to the men who service the vending machines in the halls. On Ash Wednesday and the following week, they were practically out of a job -- no sales! Then candy bars began to disappear; and the demand for "Lucky Strike" mounted with each hour, as we moved into the second week of Lent. Already we give up? Stay in there and fight. The essence of sanctity is picking one's self up after falling; and each new effort on our part merits God's blessings and God's grace.

1. Observe his wall decorations. A Senior is generally proud of his mother's picture, and is willing to let the other wall decorations harmonize with it.

2. Seniors acquire many respectable English words during their sojourn here. They use and enjoy a vocabulary that is intelligent, and varied, and expressive. Lesser minds still find it necessary to employ profanity -- an admission that they have no other tools of expression.

3. For Seniors, a girl is no novelty and hardly whistle-bait. A Senior is always searching for one who resembles his mother to a great extent; he's interested only in one he would care to introduce to his own mother.

4. A Senior treats every girl much as he would like for his friends to treat his own sister -- with respect.

This analysis is not final. There could be a rare exception. One may even mistake a Sophomore or a Freshman for a Senior. But there is no great harm in that!

The Prodigal Son

The story of the prodigal son can make a congregation wake up every time, because sinners like to trust in the mercy of God. But the point of the story is usually missed by the sinner. The prodigal son's father let him go. He gave him plenty of rope. He didn't go out after him. It was only when the sinner did his part -- came back of his own free will and confessed his sins -- that the father forgave all. That is the story of the willful sinner.

There is another kind of sinner -- the poor little lamb that doesn't know any better. The Good Shepherd goes out and searches for him, and brings him back on His shoulders.

But when Dives was buried in hell, Abraham refused his request to send Lazarus to warn his brothers, saying: "They have Moses and the prophets. If they will not believe them, they will not believe one risen from the dead."

The confessor is waiting to receive the prodigal son. The foreign missionaries go out after the lost sheep. If you know of any Dives on campus (one who hasn't started Lent yet; one who has no time for God, or his own soul), grab him by the neck and bring him over to the Lenten Series, this Wednesday. Father Brennan will deflate him, and Dives will be ever grateful to you.

Query: Why don't you ring the Angelus at Notre Dame?

Reply: We have been ringing the Angelus for 116 years here at Notre Dame, three times a day; at five minutes before 6 a.m., 12 noon, and 6 p.m. Listen for it today, then recite the beautiful prayer that tells the story of the Annunciation.