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NOTRE DAME DE LA SALETTE BOYS ACADEMY

FR. MICHAEL MCMAHON
HEADMASTER

November 1, 2011

Dear Friend of La Salette,

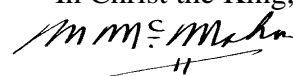
True happiness in this world – and for eternity – is found only in a thoroughly Christian understanding of life and death. To illustrate this proper understanding, find here reproduced this letter from a former student at the University of Notre Dame from the early 1950s. Unable to continue his studies, the dying young man heard that the annual novena in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes at his University was offered for him by the entire student body. He then wrote the following letter:

“My unbounded thanks for the honor bestowed on me. I shall always cherish the novena for the sick dedicated to me. A funny thing happened First Friday. I couldn’t make Mass, of course, but I did receive Holy Communion. Then, the Notre Dame Bulletin came. Then, after that, a corps of doctors. They pounded me all over and asked me a thousand questions. They told me nothing. Outside they said plenty and it all came back through the door ajar.

“After the examination was over they summed up their consultation and agreed that I have about six months to live. Well, Father, after I got over the first scare, I started to laugh. Of course, none of those docs were Notre Dame men, and they wouldn’t understand. But had they known that at the very moment a Novena was in progress on the campus and that I was to share in all the prayers and Holy Communions, they certainly would have changed their diagnosis. They simply don’t know what it means to have twenty-five hundred or more sons of Notre Dame bombarding the gates of heaven. Why, Our Lady can’t let her own boys down, can she?

“But even if the medics are right and my time is about up, I still have the laugh on them. You know, Father, I’m just about coward enough to want to give up this life of pain and suffering and not man enough to cry out with St. Francis Xavier, “More to suffer, my God, oh, more!” What the docs would surely fail to realize is that, in any case, I win, for the prayers and Communions and Masses the boys at Notre Dame are offering up for me are mine. They’ll be stored up and waiting for me when I die, and they will shorten my stay in Purgatory. So, I’ve got them coming and going. Thank the gang for me, Father. With their backing, I can’t lose.”

In this month when we pray especially for the faithful departed, let us give serious consideration to the four last things: death, judgment, Heaven and hell as well as the Mother of God’s power and maternal care.

In Christ the King,


Father Michael McMahon

N.B. This early November mailing will give you the opportunity of filling in and returning in time the enclosed Poor Souls sheet.

