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### 168 Notre Dame Men Killed; 35 Missing, 26 Prisoners

NOTRE DAME, IND. (AP) — Gold stars on the University of Notre Dame's service flag have risen to 248, exactly triple the number of students and alumni who lost their lives in World War I.

In memory of those killed, as well as the 24 Notre Dame men listed as "missing in action," and 35 prisoners of war, the Rev. William T. Crotty, C.C.C., prefect of religion, has instituted weekly "memorial days" at the university. Each Thursday morning the entire student body offers Mass and Communion for that intention.

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### Small Sins Are Mighty Dangerous

"Termites," shouted the African as his house collapsed. Unbelievable? Believe it or not. It's true. The white ants of Africa destroy everything that lies in their path; yet they are merely insects. So are sins; but they, too, can cause great discomfort. It's the little things that count. Remember the story of the Dutch boy with his finger in the hole in the dike? A little thing like that saving a country!

Scripture also tells us that it's the little things that count. "He that neglects small things shall fall little by little" (Eccl. 10:1). It is not the usual thing for anyone suddenly to become very good or very bad. People generally become careless first in the small things; then virtuous, or the habit of good, is weakened in the soul. When the grace of God is in some excess withdrawn, the next strong temptation overwhelms the soul.

The devil is a clever fellow. He does not at first assault the servant of God in large matters. He is too smart for that! Little by little, in small, seemingly unimportant things, he does his work better than if he had begun with the larger matters. If he started with mortal sins, he would easily be perceived and packed off. This way he is unknowingly admitted.

St. Gregory says that in some ways there is more danger in small faults than in great ones. St. Chrysostom, too, says that small sins make us remiss and negligent and, as we take little account of them, we never rid ourselves of them and they cause us to do great harm.

St. Augustine compares these little faults to a leak in a ship. "Little by little," he says, "a leak or a flood, but the water covers the ship so that in the end it founders." I can not say more than other others, for it all comes to the same in the end.—(Catholic Herald-Wise, Milwaukee.)

### Unlike Judas

The following is one of those little gems for so many of which we must be grateful to Catholic workers like the well-known Rene Béaum. Of course, there is always the difficulty of translating a play upon words which does well in French and looks rather poor in English, but even then the idea is there, and it is the idea we wish to put on record.

"I was present," writes Béaum in a French newspaper, "at a catechism lesson given to a hundred little boys in a parish of Paris. This quarter was poor, and so was the church. When I entered the Curé was relating the treason of Judas who sold his Master. He ended his narrative by the words: 'Judas was seized with despair, and hanged himself.' Immediately one of the youngest among the boys stood up and made a sign that he had something to say.

"I do not ask any questions," said the priest, "but what is the thought that takes you?"

"To my what I would have done if I had been Judas."

"Well, what?" And the wretched boy turned to their conversation. But he was unshamed, and perfectly conscious how absurd the notion of his heart, really.

"I would have hanged my self to the neck of good Jesus."

Some of the little ones laughed at the idea, but most of them understood better and fell as if their hearts were ready to weep.

"If these lines fall under the eyes of a soul who despairs of account of his sins, let him go and hang himself to the neck of good Jesus, and Jesus will pull him to His Heart."—(The Service)

—By Father John J. O'Conor, S.J.

Editor, "The Service"

### 'Nothing Funny'—In Children's Comics

(From the Pilot, Boston)

A generation ago, "dime novels" were condemned in well-ordered families. Printed on the cheapest of paper, these trashy "detective stories" introduced children to an unreal world. It was not, their parents thought, a healthful world. These fathers and mothers of an earlier day knew none of the modern psychiatric terms. But as expert amateur psychologists, they frowned on "Nick Carter," "Old Sleuth" and the other two-gun warthogs who shot their way through the yellow-covered "dime novels" of yesterday.

And in ordering this trash off the premises, our parents were right. The raw stuff kept children awake nights. Addiction disabled school, did poorly in their classes. Naturally the multiplication table seemed tasteless after a night of killing Indians on the Western plains.

Now we have the "children's comic." And the first objection to "Dick Tracy" and other basal descendants of "Old Sleuth" is that the very term indicates a lie. These "comics" are not funny. They don't give joy-to-the-body.

A comic book editor's idea is that, brightly and vividly pictorial, they stir a much stronger and clearer impression. These kids remember much longer. And, by any valid psychological principle, is it fair to a child mind to picture a man falling with a bullet in his heart? And if you show a body being consumed in the flames of a burning building, what is the effect on an imaginative ten-year-old?

We might as well keep on and complete this bill of particulars . . . there are female characters in some of these "comics" tropical naughtiness. In an evident wish to make these auxiliary figures as comfortable as possible in these humid climes, the cartoonist represents them in dress which would rove protest if the illustrations appeared in "Esquire." But these are "comic strips." So the question suggests itself—is the artist really screwing the dish with a little paprika? If it is done by deliberate intent, this parade of quarter-dressed women through the panels of some modern "comic strip," the artist responsible are

guilty of moral adultery. Children read these things. And if an innocent soul can touch the perpetrator, they may feel assured that some day ancestors will be squashed. Christ has promised a very special hell for the scandalizers of little ones.

The parents of a generation ago (and they were not prudes, they hadn't the slightest wish to deprive their children of any legitimate recreation) wouldn't allow "dime novels" in the house. The majority of the modern "child comics" are far more artfully calculated to throw an immature mind off balance. And it is the immature who read this stuff—that's a point to be kept well in mind:

There is no law to cover this passed. So, parents, take that and probably as much law would folder of comics your boy or girl is pouring over as absurdly. Read it yourself. If in your judgment, it is improper food for a young mind, get rid of it and don't allow any more in the house. Then, to fill the vacuum, go through the shelves of any good bookseller and find something that's fit for your child to read. As parents, as father and mother of the man that is to be, you owe that to your child.

### Urge Veterans' Guidance Bureau in Every Diocese

**ALBANY (RNS)** — Creation of a veterans' guidance bureau in every diocese were urged here by the Evangelist, official organ of Albany diocese.

Contending that priests are well equipped to offer personal counsel and guidance to returning service men, the Evangelist said: "While there will be splendid veteran agency services available, it will react to the veteran's benefit and to that of the pastoral office if every priest becomes well posted on veterans affairs and benefits."

The Catholic weekly stressed that "guidance" is to be a very real need, especially in the field of educational and vocational bene-

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