

June 3rd, 1940

Dearest,

A really short note tonight, since I spent the time between 5 + the party with coming home after noon + then going back to South Bend to the Dreamakers; I also managed a 15-minute nap.

The Sodality party at 8 was very lovely and I like the Madonna picture very much. It's the "Our Lady of Nazareth" by Chambers. It's about 8" x 11" and very good style to fit in any room with very nice coloring.

Imagine you are trying to know the results of my efforts to get an error corrected. It was most simple. I just took it in this noon and told her that someone had made an error which we might have to suffer for. She looked at it and said "Oh and it was my license too. I'm sorry". Then without checking anything at all she took the protractor

and changed the April to May & handed it back to me. So it's back at home again. Remind to give it to you this weekend.

~~Got~~ the invitations all mailed today (all but 10). I actually mailed 120. Plus 10 more definitely equals 130 and there may be a few more by then.

Dr. Studenski made a special trip to my desk today to tell me what a "fine looking man" he was marrying. Also Ann Feferman who saw you at the office and whom we practically ran over on E 46th corner as we turned from Michigan street. Of course I didn't doubt their statement at all.

Well now, darling must get sleep it's near 1 am. Goodnight,  
good luck with exams and lots of love from \_\_\_\_\_ me.

Colette R. Gerstbauer  
1201 Lincolnway West  
Mishawaka, Indiana

June 5, 1940

Darling

I started a letter this morning but never did get anywhere with it, so I'll just start over again. I got your letter yesterday and really didn't expect it with all your exams. It was darned nice of you to remember me with all of that on your mind. By now how about your exams.

So Jack turned Catholic - now that you mention it I remember Martha Abberger telling me sometime ago that he was making his first Communion. But I had forgotten it completely. I'm glad to hear that though because some day I believe Martha will be Mrs. J. Durlap.

Also why didn't Mrs O'Boerty give me a ring last weekend when she was in South Bend? Surely she knows my name well enough to find it in the telephone book. I would have enjoyed seeing her again.

I wrote to Miss Jane Yoder, the sister of the lady next door today. We talked to Mrs. Smith next door and she

she said that her ~~visited~~ sister was moving out of her apartment now too and that we should read our message to her. So I wrote her - special delivery - and asked her about her apartment or whether she knew of any teachers etc. who might be leaving their apartments. I told her that she could either write me about it or else call you and told her where you worked. Just in case she might have some very much news for us, it would be better to be able to call you. So put that name in mind in case you should hear from the lady.

How would you like to double with Elizabeth W. and John Keith Saturday night? Liz and Josephine (another swell girl from the office) came over this evening to see my gifts. John picked them up, so when he came I met him. We talked about getting together sometime so we thought it would be a good chance this Saturday P.M. if it's ok. with you; otherwise let me know Friday.

Also are you still planning on picking me up around 11 or 11:30 Friday night at the Washington Calfax? (first apt. on the right on the Calfax entrance). I think we agreed to that arrangement didn't we?

I'll have a lot more news for you then but now I'm needing some shut eye, so long  
Love  
Collis

Colette R. Gerstbauer  
1201 Lincolnway West  
Mishawaka, Indiana

Monday night

June 10, 1946

12 more days

288 hours

17,280 minutes

936,800 seconds!

Darling,

with all my statistics recorded, except for the notation that today is Grandpa's 81st birthday, I'll now get down to brass tacks on what might prove to be a very short letter on account of I have tried hard to utilize every second of time since 6 and it is now 20 of 12. I did a lot of ironing, some planning, some sewing, and have written a nice long letter to Mildred which I have neglected for some time. I'm still not certain about her music for the wedding. Of course there will be Ave Maria, but I don't know which one, etc.

Darling, we got another lovely wedding present today - from Joe and Ruth. It's a very pretty chenille spread. Different than the other one although it is also primarily

white. Don't tell him we already  
have one. We'll probably be well  
able to use ~~two~~ anyhow sometime.

I'll have to write them both soon  
as possible. Could you give me  
Ruth's address by any chance because  
I suppose I'll have to write both of  
them separately. The spread really  
is beautiful; you'll love it.

I also wrote to Jean & Ralph  
tonight since I missed them, or should  
I say "ditched them", several times yester-  
day.

Honey, tell Joe (and Ruth)  
that we're including them in the  
breakfast party on the wedding day.  
Tell him Mom is extending the  
invitation through you.

Nothing exciting happened today  
(except abroad, darnit) so no news  
Therefore being plenty tired I think  
I'll say goodnite for now. I slept  
practically all the way home last nite,  
and we didn't hit any of the storms  
did you? It rained at intervals all day  
today though. Goodnite, dearest  
with all my love

Colette

Colette R. Gerstbauer  
1201 Lincolnway West  
Mishawaka, Indiana

Wednesday night  
June 12<sup>th</sup>

Darling,

The apartment sounds wonderful!!!  
The minute I finished your letter today I  
picked up the phone to tell Mom. Simply  
couldn't wait till evening. I'm so glad  
you were able to find something; and you  
certainly did a commendable job of getting  
all the details and giving them to me all  
at once. There is only one that you missed:  
washing facilities. Although I imagine that  
is the same as in most other apartment  
houses and buildings, namely - a set day  
of the week for each tenant to use the  
basement laundry facilities. However, I'm not  
worrying about that at all; though you  
might ask them when you pick up the keys.  
Not necessary though. In fact I hurried  
to tell Naomi, Helen & Elizabeth that we  
had the apartment. They are very much  
interested in all the arrangements and  
I'll do every bit of it right with me.  
By the way Helen asked what it was like, and  
when I told her that the landlady offered to

furnish broom, mop, etc. and that the Church, grocery and <sup>other</sup> business stores were nearby, she said. "I'll bet you had to tell not him to look out for those factors when he hunted, didn't you?" Of course there was only one answer for that and she got it: "No; that's just how wonderful he is. He thinks of everything." As far as drawbacks are concerned they sound very few in comparison with some places, and of course we can't afford the place perfect in every detail. It sounds plenty near perfect to me though, and I really am just dying to see it. As for feeling badly about not coming to Detroit and helping to find it! certainly not. I only offered to do it because I was afraid you were harboring the idea that I might not be satisfied with your decision on the matter, or that I might be able to help you decide. I'm taking it for granted that it's a nice clean place 'cause that is naturally the first requisite. But it sounds like it and I know you wouldn't have chosen it otherwise.

But now for the news. Mom got a letter from Bill Kalvin today and he said he was coming for the wedding and enclosed a \$20!!!!!! check and told



her to get his wedding present to me for him because he thought it would be more satisfactory to give me my own choice in the matter. Can you believe it? of course the only thing I could think of was a Mixmaster. I want one very badly and through Dad we can get the genuine Mixmaster with all the attachments for that price wholesale - it would be a good deal more retail. As far as I know we won't receive one for a gift (unless you know of any, if so let me know, but I greatly doubt it.) Then last night we got a lovely hand forged silver salad bowl with wooden fork & spoon from the Jerome Co's. You know me for salad - we are twin sisters.

At the shower last night - Mary's bathroom shower I got many beautiful things which I'll show you Friday. Then her mother who raises huge supplies of beautiful lilies offered me as many as I want of them for our altar flowers. She simply won't consider my paying for them either. She said she gave Martha Stowell 100 stems for her wedding! I know you are not crazy about lilies but the peonies are as good as gone and roses are the only things now and they don't go very far in

the church.

I heard indirectly today at the office that Mr. Studercki is going to give all the girls in the office an hour and a half to see our wedding. I know that a number of them are positively fighting to see it, so that is probably the only satisfactory way to do it. I believe I told you that Mr. Studercki himself was bringing his wife didn't I. When she opened the invitation she said "Well, are we going?" and he said "And how. We haven't seen a Catholic wedding since our own". Then Mr. Trace is trying hard to make it too.

My scheme to clear my carelessness with Martha's invitation to the reception worked just beautifully last night when the party was breaking up. I asked your three sisters and Martha all at once, as I said I was going to, and she admitted that she was the one who got missed. She said she cried and got mad and everything about it, but that John stopped her from saying or doing anything about it. So I apologized and invited her personally then & there, and then said "now if you'd wait a minute

I'll run right home and get you that card", which of course was just a lough to break it up. So today at the office just for meanness I put one little reception card in a great big ten business envelope, at least 9" x 12", with the little clasp on it and mailed it to them with a little note on an 8 1/2" by 11" unfolded sheet telling her it was to prove that we really wanted them to be with us on that day and to pardon the error. She made a hit at the party. The girls liked her a lot. She was her usual timid self at first then she really fitted right in and seemed much more sociable than at any of the other parties.

Tomorrow night is the party wind-up with Jean's kitchen shower. I'll love that too.

I'm going to try and see Father Jones early tomorrow evening also. The nun I want to see is in retreat now, so I'll have to wait till the weekend or so before I can solve the decorating problems and arrange that. The reception is finally all arranged. We've got it all planned, finished tonight and intend to do our shopping next week. My veil stuff is also ready, and all of mom's and my dress-

making will be done the first of the week.

So I can finally see light and the rest can wait till next week when I can devote my full attention to it.

So now I'd better get to bed. It's 12:30 and I go off the record tomorrow or next day so I'm going to get some sleep.

Goodnight, darling, Bally; do you realize that this will be my last letter to you?

At least for plenty long, I hope. So let me finish it with all the love and kisses the envelope will hold which won't ever make a dent in the love I hold for you, darling. I'll see you Friday night and I'll be wherever you get here.

P.S.

Forgot to tell you about the photographer prices. You were right — they (Carlton's) want \$9.60 per halflayer if we have one pose and \$11.60 per halflayer for two poses. By one pose I mean of bride + groom only or of wedding party only. For a whole dozen it's \$16.00 (\$18.00 to \$30.00 over)

Yours alone,

Colette

So I'm going to hold up the whole works until we can decide together and I'll see if I can get any further information on other good places.

cy.