

The Feast of St. Francis Xavier.

Yesterday was the feast of St. Francis Xavier, who was probably the world's greatest missionary. He is said to have baptised more than a million people. All over the world yesterday Masses were sung in his honor; in the seminaries of Europe and America, where young men are training to follow him to India and Japan; in the heathen fastnesses of those countries, and in the heart of the African jungle; in Spain, where he was born, and in Paris where he studied, a worldling at the University before St. Ignatius met him.

*

There was rejoicing in heaven, and the millions of souls there who owe their eternal happiness to his missionary labors must have united in praising and thanking God for His faithful servant Francis.

*

And no small part in this universal hymn of praise was the one in which you participated. Perhaps no more pleasing act of devotion has been carried out in the church this year than the Mass yesterday morning, when you united with the national champions in football in thanking God for a good season, almost free from injuries, and for the missionary work done by the team in the interests of morality and practical Catholicity.

*

We will not know till Judgment Day just how much good has been accomplished, but we have a few facts at hand:

1. Religion and morality are held in such slight regard in secular universities that commissions are appointed to investigate such things as suicide parties, free-love clubs, drinking and gambling societies, immoral fraternities and the like.
2. The Daily Cardinal, of the University of Wisconsin, published in its Thanksgiving issue an anarchic attack on the police of Madison and a blasphemous diatribe against God.
3. Clarence Darrow and Scott Nearing, both A-No.1 products of materialism, debate the question, "Is life worth living?" Nearing was in jail during the war for obstructing patriotism, and Darrow is chiefly noted for obstructing justice.
4. Dr. John Roach Stratton, Baptist minister in New York, declares that the Rockefeller millions and the infidel University of Chicago are as millstones around the neck of the Baptist Church in America.
5. A Methodist minister is quoted as saying in a recent interview: "If Methodism is to survive it must reduce the necessary articles of its belief to a minimum.."
6. And in the midst of these and a thousand other evidences of the decay of Religion, we are treated to hundreds of letters and newspaper clippings that tell us that the example of the daily communicants on the Notre Dame football team has given impetus to this devotion throughout the country, but that religion and morality are proved to be not only possible but highly desirable in the makeup of the young athlete, that life is certainly worth living when it is properly lived, that millions of endowment are not essential to education, and that the Catholic Church, with the full meed of dogma bequeathed to it by its Divine Founder, still meets the needs of the highest type of American youth.

Surpass Yourselves Tomorrow.

No one who witnessed the sight in the church yesterday morning will soon forget it. You have an opportunity to surpass yourselves tomorrow morning. There were three hundred men in church yesterday morning who failed to receive Holy Communion. Tomorrow we dedicate to the Blessed Sacrament.

Let every student receive Holy Communion, and let the sanctuary be filled with adorers throughout the day.

John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,
Prefect of Religion.