Religious Bulletin November 7, 1928

Frank Gallagher's Anniversary.

Tomorrow is the anniversary of the death of Frank Gallagher, who was the first student to die last year. Frank was of the highest type of Notre Dame man - active, alert, helpful with no thought of reward, tender-hearted, enthusiastic, and, above all, cheerful, radiant, irrepressible. He died of starvation. An ulcerated stomach prevented nourishment, but he had kept going, leading a very active life -- even playing football -- until ten days before his death. His best friends had never suspected his condition.

If Frank were here this week he would be praying for the team. The Friday before the one (the tie game with Minnesota last year) he cried. "I was praying for the team to have a dry field," he said, "and when I looked out the window it was raining. I just out to cry; then all at once I remembered that it was Friday instead of Saturday, and I snapped out of it." And then he blamed himself for sleeping (he seldom could sleep) buring the game Saturday. "I should have stayed awake and prayed for the team," he said, "I meant to, but I guess I didn't take enough interest or I wouldn't have slipped ap on it." The following Tuesday he was dead.

Breathe a fervent prayer in your Holy Communion tomorrow for the repose of the soul of Frank Gallagher. We can't feel that he needs it; he was too cheerful to stay long out of Heaven. But it is the Catholic thing to do. The prayers will increase his flory in Heaven, and will aid some poor souls that didn't make so many friends while they were on earth.

"Athletic Mysticism."

"Once more the clear tang of autumn incites football enthusiasts, and over the weekends crowds will pour out to witness the strivings of clean-cut young men.

"The popularity of football is well deserved. At the present time it is among the cleanest of major sports. In no other sport is sacrifice of self for the good of the whole so emphasized, a lesson most valuable for the Christian. That the sport would take hold particularly in Catholic schools and colleges was a foregone conclusion, for clean athletics are valuable as a disciplinary measure; and discipline is the foundation of Catholic education.

"The story of a football squad making all manner of sacrifice to receive Holy Communion daily is well known to Christians, who were edified by this reverent spirit in a generation so widely proclaimed as lacking much virtue. It might be mentioned that this practice of frequent reception of Holy Communion is not confined to one Catholic university, but that the football squad of nearly every Catholic high school frequents the Sacraments. There has developed indeed what one writer has termed an "athletic mysticism."

"Football and all that it connotes is in happy contrast to the spirit which animates such a large portion of continental Europe. Athletic enthusiasm there is concerned with the development of the body as an end in itself. The superman rather than the supernatural man is held up for imitation. If football, under Catholic auspices, inculcates, as it seems to do, respect for authority, self-sacrifice and an appreciation for the things of true religion, as well as developing the body, it is to be given encouragement and support." -- The Catholic Standard and Times, of Philadelphia.

Prayers.

E. P. Slavin asks prayers for his father, who is reported near death. Lee Schrall has had an operation and Walter McAloon is in the hospital. Three special intentions. Wr. Barrett, of Hammond, uncle of Edmund Brennan, former student, died Monday.