

Tonight at 6:45, the  
Lenten Series in Sacred  
Heart Church. And then...

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
March 16, 1955

the greatest assembly of Irish,  
Fighting Irish, in the finals  
of the Bengal Bouts. Be there!

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Wanted: Some "Fighting Irish"

When Irishmen were really Irish, they united to fight for, instead of about, or among. For example: it didn't take them long to drive the "stage Irishmen" from the stage. Fifty years ago, when the word went round that such-and-such a theatre displayed a travesty on the Irish race, few Irishmen paid out money to see the show; but the few who went paid the minimum fare into the gallery -- and stopped the show. Those who boycotted the offending theatre saw to it that advertisers wrote letters to the newspapers about the matter -- and their letters were printed. The managers learned, the producers learned, the actors learned, that it did not pay to insult the Irish. The atmosphere cleared in a hurry. The reaction took the form of the light, musical, witty Irish drama which made all the world love the Irish.

But all this happened long before they had made enough money to receive social recognition; before the Irish began dipping crumpets with the Ivy set; before young Beacon Hill scions noticed South Boston colleens; long before there was one top hat in the entire parish of St. Columcille. It also belongs to that period before the descendants of martyrs became so broadminded they watered down their rich Catholic Faith; and let their coverage melt before the prospects of an advantageous marriage - outside the Church. Overnight they acquired a new accent, and Cadillac culture.

There was a time when Clancy the policeman walked his beat, a symbol of law and order, with reverence for God and love for his fellowmen, content with his pittance of salary, honest and trustworthy. But this was long before the rise of Tammany, syndicates, pay-offs, vice rings, bribery, shakedowns, and graft. Today, Clancy would look pretty silly trying to keep up with some of his descendants -- as they whirl merrily along, fearing neither God's law nor man's violence. Clancy could not square the picture with his own conscience. Neither can God.

The day is coming soon for you -- when you will have to make a choice of issues set before you -- issues that conflict with Notre Dame teachings, Catholic beliefs, social heights and dollar-diplomacy. There will be Sundays when Mass will be inconvenient, and "embarrassing Friday's," and "antiquated Lenten" observances. Some brave, well-informed Catholic may come out with a statement in the company of a distinguished gathering -- and you may be mortified, and quietly ask him not to make a scene -- if you have no backbone to support him when you know he is correct!

Tonight the Bulletin recalls St. Patrick -- when he preached; and how firmly his people retained his teachings -- past all grief, and pain, and suffering, even death! And when they scattered over the face of the earth, it was often the only thing they had to take with them -- but it remained the best thing they possessed. And now, after all they endured, wouldn't it be something if we let comfort, and ease, and luxury, and power rob us of the heirloom they prized so highly and handed down to us un tarnished! Wouldn't they have reason to be proud of us! Wouldn't that be something!

Hence, if you have any fighting blood left in you, wear a chip on your shoulder with regard to Faith and morals, these days. If your Faith isn't worth fighting for, it isn't strong enough to save your soul. If your charity won't keep you from scandalizing your neighbor, it won't cover your multitude of sins. The early Irish had their limitations -- but they were not hypocrites. There's a world of difference between Irish and Fighting Irish. We prefer the latter; they're the only kind that count here or hereafter.

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Get Ready Seniors -- This weekend, beginning Friday evening -- all Seniors will put aside their books for the serious business of a closed, class-retreat. It's their idea. They chose the weekend, the schedule, the retreat-master. Other classes will please note and be edified by their example.