

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.
Nov. 17, 1924.
St. Gregory Thaumaturgus.

Be Not Unworthy of Victory.

A clean-cut national championship is not hard to take, especially after a clean-cut team has been playing Notre Dame football together for three years. It was all that a farewell should be for fifteen men who know and love every inch of turf on Cartier Field.

*

And never think that such things are not providential. It was the previous humiliation of double defeat for a team that did not deserve defeat that made the eyes of the world center on Cartier Field Saturday. It is not the first time that a Notre Dame team has won national recognition, but it is the first time that recognition was so complete.

*

It comes in the midst of a wave of bigotry, in the wake of an election into which was injected much bitterness and fanaticism on the part of people who would deprive us of our constitutional rights of citizenship. Its effect is to win warm friendship on the part of people who appreciate clean sportsmanship.

*

And the world is beginning to realize the source of Notre Dame's brand of sportsmanship. The team work of a Notre Dame eleven is not inspired by the philosophy of Nietzsche, it has none of the earmarks of Schopenhauer or Kant; it is neither bloodless pessimism nor festering selfishness; it is neither cynical nor brutal; it is the red-blooded play of men full of life, full of hope, full of charity, of men who learn at the foot of the altar what it means to love one another, of men who believe that clean play can be offered as a prayer in honor of the Queen of Heaven. Notre Dame football is a new crusade: it kills prejudice and it stimulates faith.

*

A nun who was in Madison a week ago wrote thus to a friend at Notre Dame:

"Of course I knew you were going to win, but I was positively sure of it on Saturday morning. We had all prayed for victory at the seventhirty Mass. Then, after breakfast, we saw Our Lady's Army approaching. It was a magnificent turnout, and we all felt proud of them. We all slipped over to Mass after they were inside the Church, and the sight of the filled church was wonderful. It was simply beyond words, though, when they all rose up --- Our Lady's Knights --- and went to Holy Communion. It quickened the faith in our hearts to witness so glorious a sight. I suppose you see it every day --- but we live in the wilderness."

*

Be not unworthy of victory. The team knows how to thank God, but do you? Do you realize what St. Michael did for Notre Dame Saturday, on other fields as well as ours? Were you properly indignant at the unworthy things that happened Saturday night and Sunday morning under the fiction of commemorating a victory in honor of Our Lady? Did you make an act of reparation for those who desecrated Sunday and for those who missed Mass? Did you do one thing to show that you have the right idea of Notre Dame football?

*

Show charity know. Tomorrow we begin a Novena for the Poor Souls. They are God's little ones. What we do for them we do for Him. They depend entirely upon big-hearted people, for they can do nothing for themselves. They haven't had so many friends at Notre Dame, but today they are asking your friendship. Make your thanksgiving for victory a Novena for the Poor Souls.