

What Makes Notre Dame Men Good.

People notice something wholesome about Notre Dame men. The Bishop of Boise, Idaho remarked this the other day; for that matter, you hear it wherever you go. Particularly you hear about it whenever a Notre Dame man is not what people expect him to be. A lady made it a point this summer to inquire about the status of a Notre Dame graduate she had met in her travels. Her impression was that he had stolen the monogram; he did not act as the other Notre Dame men she met. His offense was ungentlemanliness: he had met two graduates of St. Mary's at a dance and had spent the evening telling one of them all about himself, leaving the other on the bench. (Unfortunately, the poor fellow in question had earned a monogram -- which he wears day and night, year in and year out -- but he spent four years here, and carried off prizes, without ever getting an education.)

The real Notre Dame man is a wholesome fellow. Perhaps the big point about him is that he takes virtue as a matter of course. The devil has always laughed at virtue, and since the world is full of cowards he has always had a big audience. The real Notre Dame man knows that virtue is not to be laughed at -- and that vice is not to be laughed at. What makes this young gentleman of God so different from the citizens of the world?

During the past few nights you have seen the statue on the dome illuminated -- to reveal to the freshmen the secret of Notre Dame. Take your post down the avenue, where you can see the masses of masonry that rise above the mists to converge on the one central figure, and you will see that this whole institution is merely a pedestal for the statue of the Mother of God. It is a tribute of devoted men to their Queen -- the Woman God gave us for the highest ideal of womanhood.

Tomorrow is the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, the commemoration of the Passion which Mary shared with her Divine Son. Last Saturday was the feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary; her birthday was last Tuesday. During the first week of school the Church reminds us three times that God has given us His Mother to be our Mother, calls upon us to renew our pledge of kinship as Notre Dame men.

The Mother leads us to her Son. The devotion to the Blessed Sacrament you observe at Notre Dame is the natural outgrowth of the love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Daily Communion softens the heart to receive the inspirations of grace, and when men have constantly before their eyes the ideals of womanhood that are reflected from the dome, it is small wonder that a dissolute world looks upon Notre Dame men as different.

Freshmen may pledge their loyalty to Mary in Holy Communion tomorrow. The aspirations that have brought them to Notre Dame will be wasted if they are not directed into the channels that have brought results. Freshmen may become Notre Dame men tomorrow.

Prayers.

The following intentions are recommended to your good prayers:

1. The success of the Mission;
2. The special intentions;
3. The repose of the souls of the mother of Sam Prinzi, of the fathers Robert Carey, John O'Donnell and Elmer Wynne, and of John O'Connell, New York, an alumnus who led a wonderfully edifying life;
4. The sister of Robert Hanson, of Howard Hall, and five other sick persons;
5. Van Wallace, about whom more will be said on the Bulletin very soon.

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