

The Team Went Away Worried.

The boys were anything but cheerful when they pulled out for Pittsburgh yesterday -- and it wasn't the turkey dinner that depressed them. They knew that Tech has been laying for them, and they realized that they are not getting the support in the chapel that means so much to Notre Dame teams. There is a Novena for the team going on right now, but it hardly looked it yesterday. There is a pledge of 36,000 rosaries, and there are lots of rosaries still unclaimed at the pamphlet rack; it looks like an unfulfilled pledge.

Say some prayers for the boys today, and offer Holy Communion for them tomorrow. St. Patrick and St. Bridget are the patrons of the game with the Scotch: St. Patrick for persistent determination, and St. Bridget for the culture of Irish education. St. Patrick, if you didn't know it before, was sixty years old when he became a priest and started on his missionary career; he was one hundred and twenty when he died. Match that record. He wouldn't quit, he wouldn't even die, till he had finished his job. He is a good patron for the team. St. Bridget gave an impetus to the scholarly life of the cloister in Ireland that still sends thousands of Irish girls into the convents -- not only of Ireland but of the whole world -- to train the womanhood of the world to intelligent piety and noble chastity. She is a good patroness for a team of gentlemen.

Be at the rail tomorrow.

The Great Novena Begins Monday.

The great Novena of the year at Notre Dame is the one in preparation for the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother of God. Two of the many feasts of the Blessed Virgin are made holydays of obligation by the Church. One of these, the Assumption, occurs during the summer vacation; you are at school for the other, which comes on the eighth of December.

With the Blessed Virgin as our heavenly Protectress, and with intense loyalty to her as the unfailing mark of the community and student body, is it any wonder that Notre Dame has prospered? Material resources have been the least of the worries of those who have built up this school: Father Sorin obtained a charter for this University when it was housed in the little brick building behind the library; Father Granger laid out the plans of the church in which you worship when Notre Dame had only a few hundred students -- and he started to build with nothing in his pocket, but supreme confidence in the Blessed Virgin in his heart. The Children of Mary throughout the United States built the church in which you are brought so close to God and His Blessed Mother; Father Granger solicited and obtained their aid.

Father Sorin's project of a golden statue of Our Lady that would dominate all the country about was too much of a task for the Chicago engineers. When the Main Building was finished and the statue ready to put in place, no professional contractors would tackle the job. Father Sorin would not modify his plan: he wanted a metal statue that would always endure, one that grandfathers could send their grandsons to see, one that would look out over the country-side to rebuke selfishness and sin, to inspire noble purpose. A simple lay brother, Brother Charles, invoked the aid of the Blessed Virgin and set the statue in its place where it guides you now by night and day.

Purity is the principal gift we ask for in this Novena to the Sinlessness of the Blessed Virgin. The Novena begins Monday and ends on the eve of the feast.

PRAYERS are requested by Vic Theissen for his mother, who has sustained an injury.