

University of Notre Dame
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So You Don't Believe in the Team, Eh?

When we set this down as Recovery Year, we didn't have in mind particularly the football team. The Holy Father had proclaimed it a Holy Year, President Roosevelt had called for all of us to do our part towards business recovery, and looking about us we saw plenty of need for moral and spiritual recovery.

But you have fumbled. Apparently unconscious of the fact that thousands of young men have been denied the opportunity for a Catholic college education this fall because they lacked sufficient funds - and there weren't jobs enough to go around - hundreds of you have missed the essence of a Notre Dame education by neglecting your spiritual opportunities - daily Communion, daily Mass, and the rest.

Your fumble hasn't helped the team. There is danger that the tradition established by your older brothers, "Saturday for the team," will pass into oblivion with the present generation of students. When you realize that on no Saturday of this football season was the number of Holy Communions up to 1300, you will realize just how serious the fumble has been.

And what have you done about it? Blamed the team, of course... and the coach - instead of examining your own conscience. You have followed the hue and cry of the synthetic alumni. Doesn't that make you synthetic students?

Lawrence Perry concluded a very sane article on the Notre Dame situation this week with the following paragraph:

Perhaps it would be better for Notre Dame, certainly for any coach of hers, if a time should come - as seems likely it will - when the public conceit of the Irish as omnipotent is dissipated and when teams of this University are regarded as outfits of the major class subject to the same chances of fortune and disaster as any other high grade eleven. It may cost some money but then Notre Dame has already had her share of that. For that matter Notre Dame will always have her appeal and a strong following. She does not have to beat the world every season to retain that.

That's that. You were told at the beginning of the season that there are things at Notre Dame much more important than football victories, and that when victory does not synchronize with these things we can't expect victory. And when a few hundred academic yokels set out to paint the town red after a tie game with Kansas, they are doing their level best to destroy the season.

You have a chance to beat your way back tomorrow: to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion for the team, and to offer the rosary for the boys at 11:30 (immediately after dinner); and to show by your conduct Saturday night that you can be a gentleman even in victory. Tomorrow is the feast of Sts. Simon and Jude. They will be patrons of tomorrow's game. St. Jude is invoked as the helper in desperate cases. Apply that to yourself, not to the team.

Sunday - Christ the King

There will be a Mass of Exposition in the Church Sunday for this great feast, which is of recent origin. The Holy Father wants special devotion to the Blessed Sacrament on this day: be sure to receive Holy Communion.

PRAYERS: Deceased - Cyril Vojak's mother. Ill - a son of Prof. Roemer; John Lewicki's mother; Jim Hogan's sister-in-law; a friend of Jos. Mangelli. A thanksgiving; four special intentions.