

Rosary, benediction
after dinner
Saturday

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 19, 1934

Gaps for Sat.:
8:30-9; 9:30-10;
10:30-11:00.

A Father's Idea of the Spirit of Notre Dame.

The unbalanced football enthusiast judges the rise and fall of Notre Dame spirit by the light of the bonfire, by the sound of the drums, and the volume of cheers at the games. These all have their places, but they do not reach the inner, lasting, characteristic spirit of Notre Dame.

Notre Dame men who have lived near the chapels and dome and grotto feel that the significant, sacred side of Notre Dame is lost to most of the world outside.

The father of Bill Mitchell, a Notre Dame student killed in an auto accident nearly eight years ago, now attempts to put into words his impressions of Notre Dame, gained at the time of the death of his son.

"The 'Spirit of Notre Dame' as exemplified by the team on the football field, by Knute Rockne, and his predecessors, and finally by a moving picture of that name, is," writes Mr. Mitchell, "about all that students of other colleges (non-sectarian) know about the school. But I know the real 'Spirit of Notre Dame'.

"When my son was injured (he was a junior then) and his life was despaired of, 3000 men of Notre Dame prayed almost unceasingly for his recovery. Countless Communion were offered up daily, even though at great sacrifice because so many students lived off campus and had to get up before 6 a.m. to make the offerings.

"Then, and ever since, the students and priests of Notre Dame have continued to remember him in their frequent Communion and at the Masses, and, although the tragedy occurred more than seven years ago, I know that Communion and Masses are still being offered up for him. If it were not for the intense religious fervor instilled in the students by the faculty, indifference might have prevailed and all of these wonderful sacrifices would not have been made.

"If Bill had died at another school, at one of our eastern universities, well, his mortal remains would have been shipped to his parents and the record would show that a student had died--nothing more. Compare that with the beautiful spirit shown by Notre Dame as a whole, at a time when our only boy and his parents needed the grace of God so much. Certainly the real 'Spirit of Notre Dame' is that which actuated the classmen to give to us that help at a time when it was needed most.

"The world knows the illustrious record of the team, the glorious triumphs of ever-beloved Knute, and we rejoice because of this record; but the world does not know the real 'Spirit of Notre Dame' which, being based on the Catholic Church, will last forever. I hope the students will be even more devout than before. If they are, they will attain their reward, both here and hereafter."

It is the close, genuine brotherhood born at Masses and Holy Communion, and in prayer, that binds Notre Dame men into indissoluble unity. Football men are stronger and braver when they kneel amidst their own student body at Mass and Holy Communion the morning of the game. The student who has sickness or misfortune at home finds his first consolation and help in the boys who go daily to the Communion rail. Mothers and fathers, like Mr. Mitchell, who see Notre Dame at prayer, really know Notre Dame. This is the spirit, the fire of faith and charity, that Notre Dame men of every generation must at all sacrifice keep burning bright in their hearts. If it ever goes, all that is sacred at Notre Dame will go with it.

PRAYERS: Deceased, mother of Father Roland; grandfather of Larry Groden '27. Ill, Don Allen (Eudin); wife of Joe Dawes '26; friend of John McCormack; three friends of students; Robert Monohon '34; uncle of Frank Sienko (Dillon). Four special intentions.