

Punctual you were at the  
Masses last Tuesday. Be  
on time again tomorrow.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
December 12, 1936.

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Why Pray For The Team?

James J. Glenn ('34) writes from Whiting, Indiana:

"In the Religious Bulletin for December 5, 1935, bearing the heading, 'Football Victories and Prayer,' I read that a Catholic lady objected to praying for success in football games, saying: 'A football victory seems a silly thing to pray for.' Another reader answered the lady in the same issue.

"I do not know whether the one answering was ever a student at Notre Dame, but having been a student at the University for a few years, I am perhaps a little better acquainted with the connection between prayer and victory.

"The night before a game, there is ordinarily the usual pep meeting. The morning of the game, if a home game, or a few minutes before entraining, if the game is played away, the football players assemble in the Dillon Chapel. In my time it was the Sorin Chapel. There the Prefect of Religion recites the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, patroness of the University, and to the invocations the players answer, 'Pray for us.' This is followed by three Hail Marys in honor of the patron saint of the game. Then each player goes to the Communion rail to be blessed with a relic.

"Each game has a patron saint. The players wear the medal of the patron saint fastened to their football harness by means of adhesive tape. I was told that the medal for the Army game this year was that of St. Bernadette, and the one for the Northwestern game that of Our Lady of Victory.

"Before each game the football captain religiously places the medal at the base of the Little Flower's statue in Sorin Hall chapel and during the game the candles are lighted in front of the statue. This statue was donated by the late Knute Rockne in gratitude for the recovery of his son, Jack, from a serious throat infection.

"On Saturday morning, most of the students attend Mass and receive Holy Communion for the team, either in the main church or in their hall chapel. When away from home the players and their coaches go in a body to hear Mass and to receive Holy Communion in a church near their quarters. Ordinarily the priest sent as chaplain with the team says the Mass.

"What is wrong with this? Is it not rather a good thing for all concerned to be present at the Holy Sacrifice and receive in their hearts the Giver of all good things? This is the Notre Dame man's way of living, close to God under the protection of His Blessed Mother. I am sure that the University is very grateful for the Masses offered, for the prayers said, and for the rosaries recited. Notre Dame is especially grateful for the prayers offered by the Sisters who may or may not have come in contact with the school during the summer sessions. These Sisters never saw a football game; but on Saturday when there is a game, these holy souls, if they can leave their duties, steal away to their own chapel and recite the rosary for the team.

"Through the fervent prayers said for the boys during those games, the football men have not suffered any serious injuries, they have won a few games and have been good sports about the ones they have lost.....To pray for the team, even to pray for victory does not seem to me 'a silly thing.' It is rather to use all good means to reach a desired end. It is to conform to the bidding of the Master: 'Ask, and you shall receive.'"

The more we bring every sinless thing that we do under the blessing of God, the more perfectly we live for God. Isn't that right, Jim? And thanks very much for your letter.

PRAYERS: (deceased) friend of a student; anniversary (Monday) of death of Mr. John Grady, friend of the University. Ill, mother of Ray Meyer (How.); step-mother of Bob Filson (O.C.); Mr. Richard Van Tuyl. --Also deceased, uncle of Frank O'Laughlin; father-in-law of Frankie McGuire (O.C.).

MASS SUNDAY, the 3rd of Advent, p. 66.