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Team Play.

You probably saw the news item that at one time in the Northwestern game Coach Leahy turned to the bench of substitutes and yelled (the only time he raised his voice): "Yell! Get in the game. What's the matter?" And then yell they did because they, too, felt themselves in the game, for such is the spirit of union among all the players. The whole squad plays, - one unit, one team, each helping the other, blocking, making interference, at least cheering, yelling, and encouraging each other.

All the members make up the team. They aren't just a group of selfish prima donnas.

More Team Play.

The whole squad functions (in a limping but not irreverent comparison) like the Mystical Body of Christ which is composed of Christ and all Christians in whom the divine life of Christ flows due to Baptism. All these members form one body, one unit.

The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ in which Christ is the Head and the members are all the souls united to Christ. This is a real union of souls with Christ and therefore, with each other. Christ lives and acts in such souls in a most real way.

All the members of the body together live one spiritual life which is the life of Christ. In all the good actions of the members, Christ, Himself, lives and acts.

Take Christ's explanation which He gave in the example of the vine and the branches: "I am the vine, you are the branches: he who abides in me, and I in him, he bears much fruit: for without me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me, he shall be cast forth as the branch, and shall wither, and they shall gather them up, and cast them into the fire, and they shall burn" (John 15: 5-6). "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it remain on the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in me". (John 15:4)

Paul illustrates this union of Christians with Christ and with each other by citing the human body that is made up of a head and many members. As the head and the members form one complete living body, so also does Christ and ourselves. "For as the body is one, and has many members; and all the members of the body, many as they are, form one body, so also is it with Christ...But now there are many members indeed, yet one body...Now you are the body of Christ, member for member". (I Cor. 12:12, 20,27).

We lose membership - quit the squad, refuse to play - by cutting ourselves off from the Body and its Head, Jesus Christ, by loss of faith. We are "dead" or paralyzed members when though still united with the Head by faith, we lack grace or supernatural life, i.e. we are in mortal sin. We are injured, unable to play our part.

Get In The Game!

You're not alone in this world, fighting your way alone to Heaven, fighting alone against the forces of evil, of injustice, of greed, of sin and of despair. You are a member of the Mystical Body of Christ.

Don't live your own selfish little life, with no vision or appreciation of the supernatural and eternal value of your own and neighbors soul. Above all, don't be a "dead" member in mortal sin.

Regain, if lost, your supernatural life, and get in and play the game unselfishly and hard like the members of the squad. Nobly and joyously live out your part in the Mystical Body of Christ, never injuring Christ, your Leader and Head, by sin, nor tripping up a fellow member by scandal into sin, but always showing team-play helping, blocking, cheering, encouraging each other.