

Sermon and Benediction  
tonight for all, 6:30  
and 7:00 by Fr. Irving.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
March 17, 1943

Remember your adoration  
Late Masses: Cav. 7:10  
and Dillon 7:20

Which Is It, St. Patrick? . . .

. . . "Keep the Faith", "Spread the Faith", or "Live the Faith", All three for the Notre Dame students, you say? Now you have something there. The Irish have become well known for their great faith, their living faith, St. Patrick. On this your feast day, grant to the Sons of Our Lady, all of whom are of the family of the Fighting Irish, whether they hail from Erin or not, an increase of faith.

We mean let them see the invisible realities more clearly and help them direct their daily lives by them. For instance, St. Patrick, let them see the power of prayer, that if they say merely: "Lord, help that poor soul," the Lord will hear the prayer, tho it is shorn of high-sounding words and tho the object of the prayer is very small.

And why shouldn't the warm, living faith of the Irish be on the campus, St. Patrick? Wasn't Notre Dame part Irish in her foundation? I see in Her history that four of the Brothers who came with Father Sorin were from Ireland: Brothers Peter and Patrick, Basil and William.

There is a great tradition of faith to be carried on by Notre Dame men, St. Patrick. It started with Father Sorin, and it can't stop now. Less glory would be given to God and Our Blessed Lady. There is one story of the trust Notre Dame's founder had in Our Lady. It was the time of the big fire back in '79.

"The loss was estimated at \$200,000. Only \$45,000 was forthcoming in insurance. It was a terrible blow, for in three hours was wiped out the result of thirty-five years of hard, grueling sacrifice. It took something more than courage to face the future. Father Corby had promised the students a new Notre Dame by September. But as the ashes began to cool, he himself wondered if he had not been too optimistic. How would Father Sorin feel about it?

"A few days later, April 27th, he found out. The sixty-five year old man walked around the ruins, and those who followed him were confounded by his attitude. Instead of bending, he stiffened. There was on his face a look of grim determination. He signalled all of them to go into the church with him. (The next paragraph is told by one who heard Fr. Sorin)

"I was then present when Father Sorin, after looking over the destruction of his life-work, stood at the altar steps of the only building left and spoke to the community that I have always felt to be the most sublime words I ever listened to. There was absolute faith, confidence, resolution in his very look and pose. 'If ALL were gone, I should not give up!' were his words in closing. The effect was electric. It was the crowning moment of his life. A sad company had gone into the church that day. They were all simple Christian heroes as they came out. There was never more a shadow of a doubt as to the future of Notre Dame."

(From Notre Dame - One Hundred Years, Hope)

And so, St. Patrick, brighten the eye of faith of these young men NOW. They have a lot to see now, St. Patrick, like Christ in the chapel, and in their fellow men by grace, the loving Providence of their heavenly Father following them through the day, in joy and in sorrow. Show them NOW, so that when they go to war bullets won't blur their vision, only make them trust more in the God above them, Christ within them, Our Lady praying for them, and their Guardian Angel beside them. And thanks, St. Patrick.