

For the team!
Mass and Holy Communion
Saturday.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 6, 1944

Afternoon Mass after
Tulane game in Dillon
Chapel at 5:00 P.M.

Great Sailor - Great Catholic.

In September "Harper's Magazine" there is an article by Fletcher Pratt about Admiral Dan Callaghan, "battleship admiral" and great Catholic, who executed what may turn out to have been the most decisive single action in the South Pacific war, when he turned and scattered the Jap task force bound for Guadalcanal in November, 1942, and lost his life in so doing.

The striking thing about Dan Callaghan is that the factors which entered into his life to make him a great Catholic were the same factors which made him a great sailor. Not for him that division of life, infrequent among Catholics, in which Religion and Real Life are kept in two sealed compartments, one for every day in the week and the other for Sunday mornings. The virtues of Dan Callaghan were religious virtues -- his prudence and sobriety, his joyousness and heroism, were not just natural achievements, but grew out of his deep religious life, and were deepened and enriched by divine grace.

The Proving Ground Of Courage.

Callaghan died heroically in the waters of Ironbottom Bay, off Guadalcanal Island, on the night of November 12, 1942 -- heroically, because under the circumstance he might have played safe, and no one would have blamed him for it. He was in command of a small squadron of five cruisers and eight destroyers convoying supply ships to Guadalcanal. On the afternoon of November 12, a huge Japanese invasion force, including battleships, enormously superior to Callaghan's, was reported steaming towards the island. Callaghan could not have stood them off from a distance -- their fourteen inch guns would have blown him out of the sea. The cautious, safe thing to do was to fight a darting, hit and run action with torpedoes. But Callaghan fooled the Japs, drove right into their column, where his eight-inch would bear, sank six ships, turned the invasion force, and saved Guadalcanal. The story goes that in the night the Jap big guns were straddling Callaghan's column and sinking each other. But one Jap direct hit landed on the bridge of the San Francisco, and killed the admiral and his staff.

Dan Callaghan did not become a hero on November 12. He was one already, schooled in the little things of Catholic heroism. Years before, he had gone ashore, alone, daily for a week, to Mass in an unfriendly Mexican port where it was thought to be certain death for an American sailor even to put his foot on shore. One of Callaghan's practices of self-denial was total abstinence. Once an executive officer detailed him and two other officers to represent the whole ship in drinking bouts with the officers of a German ship anchored in a Chinese port. Callaghan refused flatly to carry out the order. Of the other two officers -- who did carry it out -- one later was court-martialed and dismissed from the service, and the other committed suicide in a fit of alcoholic depression. But Callaghan lived to die heroically for his country. It is an inspiring thing to find Catholic officers whose total-Christianity enters so directly into their lives. (Chaplain's Digest)

PRAYERS: (deceased) Brother Aloysius, C.S.C.; friend of Tom J. McGuire (B-P), killed in action; friend of Dick Hahn (B-P); father of George Popadowski, USMCR (Cav); sister of Dan Hanley (Athletic Dept.); Chick McGhiery; grandfather of Joe Lauch (ROTC) two friends of Dick Ames (Sor); friend of Don Modie (Dil). (Ill) John Dunham; friend of Mack Abraham (Dil), missing in action; Mike Ryan (Car), operation.
Two Special Intentions.

THE NOVENNA FOR EXAMS STARTS TUESDAY (10th)
MASS, HOLY COMMUNION AND ROSARY DAILY