

Cardinal Motta of
Brazil to give Benediction
at 5:00 P.M. today.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 9, 1947

Late Masses daily
at 7:20 A.M. in Dillon
And Cavanaugh chapels.

The First Notre Dame Men.

You are going to get a free day Monday, because it is Founder's Day. This day of freedom is given that you might reflect, even though briefly, on the spirit of the men who founded Notre Dame, Father Edward Sorin and the others who worked with him in laying the foundations for the Notre Dame you enjoy.

The story of the fire of 1879 will give you a glimpse of the greatness of the first Notre Dame men. These excerpts are taken from "Notre Dame --One Hundred Years".

It was eleven o'clock on the morning of April 23. "The flames were low on the college roof, close to the little railing that ran round the dome. Workmen had been on the roof as late as ten o'clock making some repairs. At that hour they had descended, locking the door behind them. If, when the fire was first detected, water in any quantity could have been brought to the roof, it would have been easily extinguished. But the building was six stories high; the buckets placed for just such an emergency were empty; and in the confusion that ensued precious time was lost. In ten or fifteen minutes the pitch roof began to blaze, sending forth clouds of dense smoke... Within three hours the college building, St. Francis' Home, the Infirmary and Music Hall were in complete ruin.

"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 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 following paragraph is description of what took place in the church by one who was there.)

'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 what I have always felt to be the most sublime words I have ever listened to. There was absolute faith, confidence, resolution in his very look and pose. "If it were ALL 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 Christian heroes as they came out. There was never more a shadow of doubt as to the future of Notre Dame.'

A Solemn Mass will be celebrated Monday in Sacred Heart church to honor St. Edward, Father Sorin's heavenly patron. You should be present at this Mass to pray for the deceased leaders of the University and to ask God for the virtues that distinguished them.

PRAYERS: (deceased) wife of Tim Galvin, '16, trustee of N.D.; John "Dinny" Roach; James Madden and Mrs Elizabeth Madden, friends of Harry Yeager (How); cousin of Pat Hughes (Dil); father of Clarence Slynstad (How); Anna Lavin; father of Phil Hannon (Morr), died June 24. Two Special Intentions. One Thanksgiving.