



Father Sorin

Classes will be dismissed Wednesday to give you a little extra time to reflect on the virtues of the man who founded Notre Dame, Father Edward Sorin, CSC.

You are now profiting from Father Sorin's leadership and sacrifices. You should therefore thank God for this blessing, and you can do that by assisting at Mass Wednesday. The free day is given that you might not forget your debt to God and to Sorin. At the 8:30 o'clock Mass Father Thomas McAvoy will speak to you about Father Sorin.

In "Notre Dame -- One Hundred Years" we find a few paragraphs which tell something of the greatness of Father Sorin. The Great Fire of '79 practically wiped out Notre Dame. In a few hours the flames destroyed thirty-five years of hard, gruelling sacrifice on the part of Sorin and his associates. Sorin was sixty-five at the time. Another man would have quit. But not Sorin. His perseverance and determination is told in a paragraph written by a student who heard Sorin talk in the church after the fire.

"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."

"Those who were afraid that the Great Fire might undermine Father Sorin's health, feared in vain. During the two or three years that followed that catastrophe, it was frequently noted how he had seemed rather to regain his youthful vigor. When he sang Mass in the church, his deep voice seemed richer and stronger than it had been for years. Nor were his travels abated. On June 3, 1882, he returned from France, after his fortieth voyage across the ocean. And it was probably the first time that there was no one at the station to meet him. When he got off the train at South Bend at two o'clock in the morning, there wasn't even a horse and buggy in sight. Nothing daunted, the old man set off as in pioneer days and walked the two miles to the college. To his repeated knocking, a sleepy, chagrined, but happy religious opened the door. The dawn was just breaking. Father Sorin went to the church and celebrated Mass."

You will have missed the point of the free-day, if you do not attend Mass and receive Holy Communion. You need the virtues possessed by the Founder of Notre Dame. Take the first hour of your Wednesday and pray for them at Mass.

PFAYERS: (deceased) Mother of Fatherloys Dirksen, CPPS (Religion Dept); grandmother of Robert Peckels (Z). (Ill) Mrs Christenson, friend of Geo. Frazier (Dil); mother of Jerry White (41); Mary Kelly, friend of Geo. Cullinan (Dil). 4 Spec. Ints.

FOUNDER'S DAY (WEDNESDAY) MASS ... 8:30 IN THE CHURCH
other Masses 7:20 and 9:00 Sullivan & Cavanaugh