

Deceased: William J. Newell; University of Notre Dame
Mrs. Flora Moore; 3 friends; Religious Bulletin
grand'er of J. McKelvey (Alu); October 9, 1950

...cousin of G. Jansen (O-C)
Ill: father of J. Leighton;
mother C. Cook; mother of J.
O'Toole; nephew of G. Kelly.

What's The Matter With Notre Dame?

Statistics on attendance at daily Mass and the reception of Holy Communion, the pulse-beat of Catholic vitality on campus, serve also as a thermometer for reading spiritual temperatures--normal, above normal or below normal. It enables us to check infections and prescribe proper medicines.

In the spiritual life there is no standing still. Either one is struggling upgrade or relaxing downgrade. There are 3423 students resident on campus--approximately 5% non-Catholic. If attendance at daily Mass eases off, if there is an appreciable decrease in daily Communions, then some untoward influence has been at work.

If daily adoration is a privilege, but not many students take advantage of this privilege, there must be a reason why. During October adoration, for example, we have Rosary and Benediction every afternoon, Monday through Friday, at 5 o'clock. When for the first week an average of 58 out of 3250 Catholic students are present, drawing an unfavorable impression is not being too unreasonable.

The Bulletin of September 29 called your attention to a long-standing Notre Dame tradition: MASS AND COMMUNION FOR THE TEAM-- on the day of the game. On the first Saturday there was a fairly large attendance, though not so large as we have had during football "depressions" in the past. With regard to last Saturday, it is sufficient to say that the general daily average dropped.

And that indicates how much you are willing to put yourself out for your team. Crippling injuries continue to plague the squad. The "lads" get out there every Saturday afternoon, after a week of gruelling practice, and give all they've got. Do you do that Saturday mornings? They take many risks not only to get a Notre Dame education for themselves but to give you a BIG TIME. They appreciate your rousing cheers at pep rallies, but they appreciate far more the sacrifices you make to remember them at Mass and Holy Communion.

Notre Dame lost a game, the first most of you witnessed. In the last analysis, what of it? A timely defeat is a sound lesson in sportsmanship. It certainly would not be exactly complimentary to her athletic tradition if Notre Dame had to win every game to retain only your pep-rally and stadium loyalty.

You did a fine thing when you cheered the team in its dressing room Saturday after the game. The spark of an oldtime, red-hot loyalty seems to have been ignited. You wanted to make amends for a let-down where letting down counted most.

Win or lose, Notre Dame will play her schedule and play every game to win, not because she fears defeat but because she loves to win. Notre Dame tries to teach you to give the best that is in you whether you are playing football or basketball, fighting a war or outwitting Communists, living an active apostolic life or leading the humble life of an obscure Catholic layman.

What the world recognizes as characteristic of Notre Dame men is fight. But there is something sadly lacking when they don't fight together--all together. Men will fight for one of two reasons, because they fear something or because they love someone. They fight desperately when they fear, but gallantly when they love. There is a motive involved here and it runs through all life's struggles, right to the very end. Are you to serve God because you fear sin and its eternal punishment, or serve Him because you love virtue and its eternal reward?

Isn't defeat a wonderful thing? (Sunday's Communion total--2,010--was the highest for a single day this year!) It is if it gets you more behind the team. What's the connection? Judge for yourself.