

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

September 25, 1953

Yankiss Will Be Absent

Tomorrow morning:
Remember the team.
Get up for Mass.

Tomorrow evening: Turn
your clocks back one
hour.

Sunday night, when the Seniors gather in Sacred Heart Church for their mission, John Yankiss won't be among them. He was there last fall, when his classmates trooped in to ask the blessing of God on their Junior year. Little idea did he have at the time that it was the last mission he would ever make.

Somehow, we are not too much worried about him, as we call the class together this fall. There is a strong suspicion that John Yankiss is much better off than some of his classmates are right now. Here's the reason:

On Sunday morning, August 2, Jack and the entire Yankiss family went to Mass and Communion as usual. In the afternoon he went swimming in a little lake near Parkersburg, W.Va., and was drowned. We're not too much worried about him because, "As a man lives, so shall he die."

What kind of reputation did he have? We thought he was among the best on campus. People in the neighborhood, writing in to inform us of the accident, declared:

"He was a fine Catholic gentleman and a great guy -- everything you would expect a Notre Dame student to be. We are told that he had a 90 average in Arts and Letters, that he won the Chicago Tribune Medal because he was an outstanding cadet in the Air Force ROTC for the past 2 years. We know he was deeply religious. If he isn't in heaven, then we don't have a chance. His parents were very proud of him. Would you write a note to the parents? We know it would make them very happy -- this consolation coming from the place he loved best ..."

An Infinitely Wise God, we reflect, saw fit to take Jack out of this sinful world at this time. Surely God knows best. Did the Seniors really lose a member? Is there really any loss with God acting so wisely? In this realization we rest content in His decision. And because Jack loved Notre Dame, we cannot but feel we have gained another advocate at the feet of the Lady of this House of God. We have every reason to believe he will remind Her of his struggling classmates, and of all Notre Dame men. In a way, we aren't so bad off for his going, are we?

"As A Man Lives ..."

Some of Jack's classmates know they are not in the healthy spiritual condition he was when Death suddenly reached out and grabbed him. That ought to be just one more reason for making sure that every last man in the class makes the mission. Furthermore, the Mission Mass on Monday morning will be for him -- at the request of a group of his friends.

What About YOU ?

Tomorrow is the first game. The team takes the field, but we all play -- all Notre Dame plays -- on offense and defense -- We're in for every play. This morning the team went to Mass and Communion; they prayed for avoidance of injury. They asked for as much success as will redound to the glory of Our Lady and Her school. The student body used to do the same -- out of loyalty to the team and love for Notre Dame. What will you do tomorrow -- pray your part in the game, or sleep till noon? Our loyalty has been the envy of the nation. Our courage has been the symbol of success over all odds. The Fighting Irish look to you for encouragement. Don't let them down! Tonight, 6:45 the Junior Mission.