

Tonight at 6:45 in Sacred  
Heart Church -- Novena to  
the Sorrowful Mother.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 26, 1954

Tomorrow - Get up for the  
team; pray for avoidance of  
injuries.

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Explaining the "Fighting Irish"

Each autumn, a new crop of Freshmen comes to Notre Dame, puts on green hats, troops over to the stadium, and sings Irish songs in honor of Szymanski, Palumbo, Schaefer and Varrichione -- and Brennan! Certain sports writers, with a limited background, make much humor of the situation. But Notre Dame came by the tradition, and clings to that tradition, with much more logic than you might believe. In case you're a little doubtful, here's something for you to remember with pride:

Many people wonder (or worry) about Notre Dame and that word, Irish. To us, it doesn't mean race exclusively; nor is it just another nickname. The fact is: it keeps alive the memory of a long, uphill fight for recognition against a spirit that was not always generous, nor even fair-minded. The Irish, as known at Notre Dame, has an authentic history and a meaning deeper even than race.

Notre Dame began athletic relations chiefly with local colleges founded by various denominations. Press reports would refer to the schools as the "Baptists" or the "Methodists," and the like. For Notre Dame it was the "Catholics," or the "Irish." But the players were never all of Irish ancestry; nor were they all Catholics.

The usage was not original, but a continuing custom from earlier Colonial times. The bulk of the first Catholic immigrants were Irish -- so that Catholics and Irish were identical in the public mind. It is sad to recall now, but few of the original states were without laws against them. Advertisements for "Help Wanted" commonly carried the restriction: "No Catholics. No Irish." The Puritans of narrow, little New England were the first to cry: "Stop the Irish!"

When the religious origins of other colleges lost their significance, the emphasis shifted to conventional names, and to their school colors. But history is recorded remembrance in our blessed heritage here at Notre Dame. Fighting Irish! Why, its' more than a name; more than a people. It is the Faith!

Among the stern, cadaverous-looking, gloomy, early New England set, it began as a slur -- a term of opprobrium. But we took it up and made of it a badge of honor -- a symbol of fidelity and courage to everyone who suffers from discrimination; to everyone who has an uphill fight for the elemental decencies, and the basic, Christian principles woven into the texture of our nation. Preserving this tradition, and the meaning of Irish at Notre Dame does honor to everyone of us. It explains why Szymanski belongs here; why Matz is co-captain and an Irish leader of the team; why Schaefer belongs here; why Edmunds, and Bisceglia are as good as the next man, whoever he happens to be. It helps to explain why Sorin, and Badin, and Zahm all fitted nicely into the texture that clothed the Notre Dame household from its earliest days. They are all as much at home here as are Brennan and Shannon.

It might also help a little to explain the great surge of spirit, last week, when some benighted Iowa followers sent flowers to Varrichione, and laid plans to burn shamrocks. For us, no other words so well express our sentiments, and our loyalty and common purpose as the short, pungent, and distinct battle cry: "Go Irish!"

And it all boils down to the logical phrase: Notre Dame and the Faith are one and the same thing. And if you want to be a real Notre Dame man, then keep the Faith!

Change Clocks Tomorrow Night

The University goes on fast time, Sunday morning at 2 a.m. This means: - Be on the alert, lest you come late for Mass in your hall chapel, this particular Sunday.