

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 12, 1955

Tomorrow is Founder's Day

Tomorrow is a day free of classes in honor of St. Edward, the patron of Father Sorin; founder of the University. You can sleep later than usual, and then avail yourselves of the facilities for Mass and Communion in Cavanaugh, Howard, and Dillon chapels until 9 o'clock. Even breakfast comes later tomorrow.

Every year on this blessed occasion Notre Dame pauses to remember not only Father Sorin, but also the little band of his companions and co-workers in the early days. Tomorrow, Notre Dame also thinks of all the good, holy men down through 113 years who contributed their prayers and talents to the building of what you enjoy today-- a first-class university.

Did they love Notre Dame very much? The stories about them, and the measure of their devotion to the Mother of God, and the hazards they encountered, and the limitless expanse of their Faith--say, you haven't met braver men in fiction or fact! Read: Notre Dame--100 Years (by Father Hope). You'll even discover that there were times when Father Sorin wasn't much farther than one jump ahead of the sheriff.

Founder's Mass In Sacred Heart

Whatever else you do, come to the Founder's Mass at 9 a.m. in the big church built by Father Sorin. Father Eugene Burke will tell you some things about Notre Dame, and Notre Dame's founder that will be worth hearing, and remembering. The proper observance of this day is part of your education at Notre Dame --as you'll discover after listening to Father Burke.

You are used to seeing pictures of Father Sorin as an elderly man with a long beard. But when he came to Notre Dame he was only 28. It was a cold day in late November, with a sharp wind coming off the lake, and deep snow on the ground. He was too young to have what we sometimes call prudence born of experience. Call it daring, or optimism, or enthusiasm--the real secret of Sorin was Faith, lots of faith in God and in His Blessed Mother. And if you think Indiana in our day is desolate in wintertime, how bleak it must have looked to him--the day he came up from Vincennes to take possession of the campus! But the dauntless young missionary took the five Brothers into the little log chapel that belonged to the Indians, and kneeling on the dirt floor, spread his great black cape over the shoulders of his companions, and vowed that he, and they, and all who should come after him until the end of time, would find in Our Lady's help, the answer to all their needs. Your little Notre Dame Prayer-book describes the event in an excerpt from Father Sorin's letter:

"This first arrival on the spot now called by the blessed name of Notre Dame du Lac...made on the newcomers an impression which time will never obliterate. At that moment, one most memorable to me, a special consecration was made to the Blessed Mother of Jesus...With my five Brothers and myself, I presented to the Blessed Virgin all those generous souls whom Heaven should be pleased to call around me on this spot, or who should come after me..."

Tomorrow, after Mass, take a walk around the lakes as they did on that first day. Then drop in at the Community cemetery on the western edge of the campus, and say a prayer for all the good Notre Dame priests of the past who rest beneath simple white crosses. Their only monument is your school. Tomorrow they deserve a rich remembrance in our best prayers.

Confessions in Spanish - every Thursday afternoon during the Holy Hour in Sacred Heart Church in the confessional at the main entrance.