

University of Notre Dame
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Heroes And Headlines

In the mediaeval legend, The Juggler of Notre Dame, we are told about a circus performer who became a monk. His only talent lay in tumbling. And so, out of devotion to Our Lady, he did his best tumbling before her shrine -- and begged her to accept it as the measure of his love for her. And she did.

That's about the way things go here at Notre Dame; indeed, it goes far to explain the secret of our success. For example: the sports world was very generous to Notre Dame over the weekend. Scarcely a metropolitan newspaper failed to give banner headlines, plus a stirring account of the game in Philadelphia. "It was the Notre Dame spirit," they wrote, "surmounting all odds. It was the Fighting Irish in their finest hour of courage, coming from apparent defeat to win the day with their big hearts and flaming spirits." Gallant was the word for every man on the team. Lots of ink was spilled to recount the story, and deservedly so. Even the Subway Alumni lifted their heads high -- they had been vindicated; and so they hummed the Victory March all the way home. With their own eyes they had witnessed a display of determination and skill that was legendary. Little wonder that Notre Dame is a great school!.. So much for Saturday's heroes who made the Sunday headlines.

You might remember, too, that we buried one of the stalwarts of Notre Dame, last week -- Brother Claver, CSC. You recall that he served you in the treasurer's office without fanfare or following. But in his own quiet way he offered a life of service to Our Lady that was largely taken for granted. It's doubtful that he ever merited a headline of any sort, or attracted attention. He earned no cheers as the world cheers her favorites, or found himself in a spotlight of any kind. Rather, he belonged to that noble segment of the Notre Dame family that writes a very important chapter in the story of the school, though it seldom makes the limelight. Along with these Brothers are hundreds of other personnel without whom the school could not function. You may never read about them in the headlines. But this is certain: they will not be forgotten by the Lady of this household in whose service they spend their days and their varied talents.

It may be comforting to recall that all heroes are not measured by headlines; and that a day will come when the world is hushed, and when only the voice of this Lady will be heard recounting the list of the valiant who labored in her service. Next Saturday, next year -- we'll have another list of headliners. But this final rating of hidden heroes by the Mother of God may turn out to be the most surprising, and most valuable, that has ever hit your eyes.

No, headlines don't touch all the heroes of Notre Dame. But that shouldn't bother us -- we know the Lady of the Household remembers!

The Law Of The Church

"Whereas the Sacraments of the New Law, though they take effect ex opere operato (through their own intrinsic power on the soul in the state of grace), nevertheless they produce a greater effect in proportion as the dispositions of the recipient are better. Therefore, care is to be taken that Holy Communion be preceded by careful preparation, and followed by a suitable thanksgiving, according to each one's strength, circumstance, and duties." (St. Pius X).

Hence, allow yourselves 15 minutes for preparation, reception, and thanksgiving, if you receive outside of Mass, as we do so often in Dillon Hall chapel. Surely, the importance of the event merits this much of your time and attention!