"Our New Year was happier when we followed the broadcasted score of the game at Los Angeles. After the first quarter our supper bell rang. The thermometer of interest ran thus—one Sister ate neither cake nor peaches for supper in order that Notre Dame might win, another said the Memorare repeatedly during part of the game. Now you know the cause of the victory."

"I am reminded here of an illustration intended to make a spiritual truth plain. It is a comparison of a catcher with and without his glove and a person with and without preparedness for life. An unexpected, swift ball might disable a catcher, whereas in his padded mitt he catches with a thrill the balls that come his way. When prepared spiritually, we too can meet with a degree of welcome that would otherwise make us limp. The same reasoning may be applied to football games where spiritual and temporal padding form the indispensable armor."

"I hope your Notre Dame team working on spiritualities will merit a notable championship."

Stand By!
The good Sister who thus reports their dominant interest on New Year's Day may little realize in how many other places the same spirit prevailed, the same scenes were enacted. Literally thousands hung breathless on the whispering of the radio. Two characteristics of Notre Dame breathe forth from this letter—enthusiasm and sacrifice. May we not hope that they were found in many other assemblages of that eventful day?

Turn the Picture.
Read the last sentence of the letter again and apply it to yourself. Are you one of the many whose sacrifices ceased, whose enthusiasm waned after the final whistle? The kingdom of heaven is not to be gained by an intercepted pass, the recovery of a fumble, but it "suffereth violence and the violent bear it away." Familiar faces are missed at the altar rail; others made good resolutions—but.

Cold Mornings.
Dull, gray days, biting frosts, crunching snow keep strong men from the altar! You would be insulted if anyone called you a weakening, yet when a little sacrifice, a little enthusiasm is demanded of you in your spiritual interest, see how weakly you respond. "I hope Notre Dame men working on spiritualities will merit a notable championship."

"Neglect of Divine Calls and Warnings."
You need to read this pamphlet right now. It is not a plea for vocations but a clarion call to the service of God. Here are a few tributes to its power:
"I have just received a divine call and a divine warning."
"It helped me in several ways."
"These pages contain the right dope."
"It gave me a new idea both of myself and of the grace I have received and failed to take advantage of."
"I discovered it was written just for me. I shall go to six o'clock Mass tomorrow and receive Holy Communion in spite of the fact that I live off campus."

John F. Ciara, C.S.C.
Prefect of Religion.