University of Notre Dame

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

September 25, 1953

Yankiss Will Be Absent

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 fans -- on Friday and A Team -- we're in for every play. This means the team, not Notre Dame and Communism; they pray for avoidance of injury. They asked for us to back them up with support, and the glory of our Lady and her school. The playing day was made out of love -- 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? Loyalty has been the envy of the nation. Our courage has been the symbol of Americanism all these years. Fight the Irish back to you for encouragement. Don't let the score! Tonight, fight the Junior Blanks.