GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

* * *

TRUE pity instinctively urges us to come near those who suffer. Tell a friend about your sufferings and his hand will move toward you in silent pressure to speak his sympathy. What is this but a reflection of the pity of the Son of God who came to earth to touch our human nature and be one with our tears and sorrows. No good is ever done to fellowman except at the cost of true sympathy which leads to identification and contact. Perhaps the tragedy of leprosy is not so much the suffering but the fact that on one wants to touch a leper. Few ever did until Our Lord gave the example.

Today the Holy Father's Missions are caring for 74,000 lepers in 219 different areas of the world; these lepers are daily being touched and healed by 1,200 priests, Brothers and Sisters, over 100 of whom have contracted the disease in reaching to them the sympathic touch of Christ.

Our Lord can contemplate in one awful aggregate the sorrows of the world and yet love each person perfectly. When He did it one night in a Garden, it produced crimson beads on olive roots. But our pity has to be individualized to be effective and sacred. It is our hand that particularies our sympathy. The eye sees a hundred oranges; the hand chooses one. When we hear of ten million lepers in the world, it staggers us as abstract misery. But when we reach out our hand with a sacrifice for one of them in pity and sympathy, we take one soul of that mass and let our healing pass into his darkness. Why not then sacrifice for the Holy Father's Missions a dinner, a luxury, a dress, a hat or some of your capital that Our Lord may touch us with His blessing.

GOD LOVE YOU to L. W. for $1,000 to the Holy Father's Missions in gratitude for not having an opponent run opposite her in an election . . . to A. S. "I promised a certain sum of money if our crop was saved. It was, and I am therefore sending the Missions this $10." . . . to E. W. "Enclosed is $5, the amount I fined myself for gossiping. Maybe this will help me overcome it and at the same time help the missions." . . . to J. J. for $5. "This money is in thanksgiving for going back to church and receiving Holy Communion." . . . to S. C., 6 years old. "I earned this 25c taking care of my baby brother. This is for the hungry children." . . . to W. Z. "Yesterday while working in the field I found it very dry and promised $5 to the Missions if it rained. Today it rained hard." . . . to W. H. "Enclosed is $13. I promised this if I made certain grades in my schoolwork." . . . to G. F. "Instead of spending this $2 on brandy and movies, I am sending it to the Missions and pray that God will return the hair on my head which I lost through an attack of polio three years ago." . . . to Mrs. T. N. "God is good to me and mine and I still gripe. I am ashamed and so I am sending $25 to the Missions" . . . to F. R. S. "Enclosed is $7, 10% of my butter and egg money. In honor of the Little Flower and Our Blessed Mother, ask them to intercede for my wife's health.

Pray for Asia this week? You would have if you had a World Mission Rosary to remind you. Send us your request and a $2 offering to the Missions and we will send you a World Mission Rosary

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to the Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 109 East 38th Street, New York 16, New York or your Diocesan Director Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

Penny-A-Day Plan

Portland, Ore.—(NC)—A Lenten penny-a-day plan by Portland women has resulted in more than one thousand dollars for extending the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in the archdiocese. The Confraternity program includes training of lay catechists for released time classes.

Johnny Lattner, Notre Dame Gridder, Hailed As 'All American-All The Way'

By DAVE WARNER

When the recently discontinued platoon system was at its peak in college football, banquet table comedians used to enjoy poking fun at the folly of the platoons with a story that went like this:

Seems a chap was idling over a cup of coffee in a railroad diner when the steward seated another passenger at the table.

As the newcomer settled into his chair the coffee sipper noticed a miniature gold football dangling from the stranger's tie clasp. By way of opening the conversation he remarked: "I see you played football somewhere. Where did you go to college?"

"Let me introduce myself. My name's 'Harp' McGuffy. I went to Hopewell U., class of '47," was the reply.

The other diner said, "Well, whadya know!" Digging into his pocket he came up with a gold football exactly like the one worn by "Harp."

"They used to call me 'Five Yards' Flanagan at Hopewell, also of the class of '47," he beamed.

Introductions having been completed, both wondered why they never met while members of the same squad. "What position did you play?" Flanagan inquired

"I was a guard on defense," answered "Harp".

"That explains everything," Flanagan said. "I was a fullback on offense."

Yet even in those waning days of the platoon when football players mostly watched and waited during a game, performed their specialized tasks, then returned to the bench for more watching and waiting. John Joseph Lattner, Notre Dame's All American senior halfback, was doing everything on the field except supplying the ball for the game.

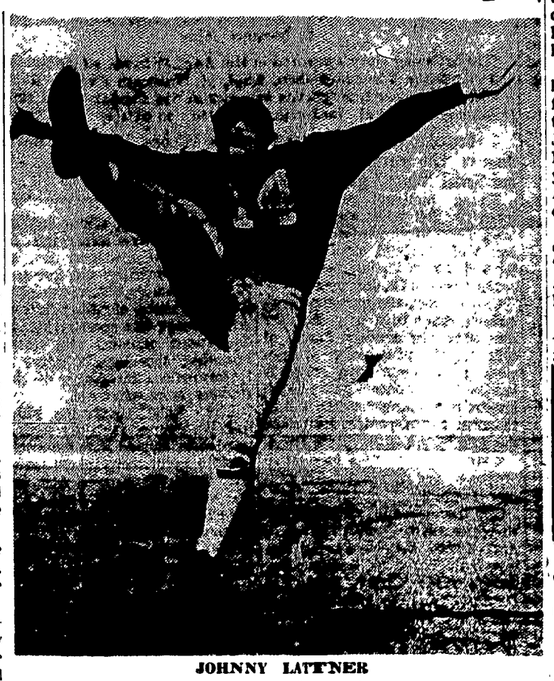
Many oldstyle players and coaches called the platoon system of playing football a sissy's game. "If a lad is going to play football, he should know how to play defense as well as offense," they said. "Now that the platoons are abolished, we will find out who the real football players are this Fall. We'll soon separate the men from the boys," they added.

Is it any wonder, then, that any college football coach now would prize having Lattner on his squad as much as having a 10-year coaching contract?

AT NOTRE DAME, they call him "Sixty Minute" Lattner because in several games during the past two seasons his rare ability was needed throughout the entire game

For instance, last season when the Irish met the cream of every section from the Atlantic to the Pacific in a 10-game suicidal schedule, Lattner played on an average of two out of every three minutes.

In a general sense, Lattner helped compile a 7-won, 2 lost, 1 tied record against teams like Pennsylvania, Texas, Pittsburgh,



JOHNNY LATTNER
Notre Dame's "All-American"

Purdue North Carolina, Navy, Oklahoma, Michigan State, Iowa, Southern California. That record has been justifiably called Frank Leahy's greatest coaching job at Notre Dame.

Playing both offense and defense here is what Lattner accomplished individually: Led the squad in rushing with a five-yard average . . . was the squad's second best scorer . . . led the squad in pass interceptions . . . handled punt and kickoff returns dependably . . . did all the punting . . . threw passes, caught passes . . . was among the squad's best recoverers of opponent's fumbles . . . and was a consistently sure tackler of enemy ball carriers.

LEAHY LAUDS Lattner this way: 'He typifies the spirit of Notre Dame football. Gives every ounce of his energy in playing both offense and defense in his personal contribution to a wonderful team effort. In the T-formation which we use, it is necessary to have certain 'bread and butter' plays to have a successful offense Lattner is our 'bread and butter' ball carrier.'

Not too many weeks following the announcement of the National Collegiate Athletic Association that platoons would be abolished this Fall, some colleges openly rebelled against the rule.

"We refuse to play such a tough schedule without platoons," squad members of a leading Eastern university petitioned their athletic director

SIX MEMBERS of one of the topflight Southern universities resigned from the football squad, saying they couldn't play football if there were no platoons. Such examples further point up Lattner's ability and attitude toward the game.

He is Notre Dame's leading candidate for the 1953 Heisman Trophy, emblematic of the best college football player in the country, and for the Matthew Golden Trophy, which goes to the best Catholic football player.

This Fall the trophy committees are going to have to select the best ALL-AROUND football player. And Lattner already has had two years practice at being an all-around player in major league competition

Lattner, a 20-year-old Chicago boy who also plays basketball, is the youngest of three children. His dad died two years ago.

Johnny attended St. Thomas Aquinas grade school in Chicago and Fenwick High School in suburban Oak Park. He captained the football and basketball teams in his senior year at Fenwick. He made All-Illinois in football and All-Chicago in basketball.

He was good enough to make Notre Dame's basketball squad in his sophomore year. However, an incident of last season best illustrates the type of boy he is. When the 1952 football season ended he reported for basketball and remained long enough to gauge his chances pretty accurately. As a candidate for the regular 12-man squad he was a borderline case, about on a par with three or four others including his counsin, Tommy Sullivan.

OTHER THINGS being equal, Lattner's reputation as an athlete and his personal popularity with the customers might influence Johnny Jordan the coach, in his favor. If he were selected, he'd be taking the job from somebody of equal ability who'd been trying to make the team since the first of November, when Lattner was winning headlines in football. Maybe the loser would be his cousin.

After about three days of practice Lattner told Jordan he was stepping out

So instead of playing basketball, he concentrated on studies. He is in the School of Commerce where he maintains an 84 average, majoring in accounting. He wants to be a C.P.A. some day.

Notre Dame publicity man Charlie Callahan says that of all the football players he's seen come and go at Notre Dame, Lattner is among the most publicity-shy.

But watching Lattner run a hole into the wind on both offense and defense makes one think of a remark of the late Jim Thorpe, legendary Carlisle Institute gridder and in recent years voted the best all-around American athlete of the last half century.

On learning of the abolishing of the platoons, Thorpe quipped, "Now we will be able to have All-Americans again instead of Half-Americans."

That's Lattner — all-American — all the way.

Mrs. Philomena Fien Funeral Rites Held

Funeral services for Mrs. Philomena Fien, aged 76 years, formerly of 634 Avenue D, who died Friday, Sept. 4, 1953, were held from the August M. Maier Funeral Home, and in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Requiem Mass was celebrated by Rev. John C. Newcomb. Present in the sanctuary were Rev. Frank Hoefen and Rev. Eugene McFarland. Bearers were six sons of Mrs. Fien.

Mrs. Fien was a member of Rochester Branch 977 L.C.B.A.

She is survived by seven sons, John, Joseph, Louis, Aloysius, Edward, and Gerard Fien, all of Rochester, and Charles, of Burbank, Calif.; two daughters, Misses Martha and Rita Fien, a brother, Joseph Maier, two sisters, Mrs. Anna Brundage of Bergen, and Mrs. Laura Kastner; twenty-two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, where the final blessing was given by Rev. David Singerhoff.

Runs Boxing Clinics

Washington—(NC)—Eddie LaFond, athletic director of the Catholic University of America, has been assigned for the third time by the Army to conduct boxing clinics among troops overseas. He now is in Germany and will return to the university Sept. 20.

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