

First Friday.

For just this once be so generous with God that there will not be enough space in the sanctuary for the adorers.

A Novena for Sluggards.

Someone is missing the point. A school dedicated to the Blessed Virgin should certainly show some slight enthusiasm for the honor of the Mother of God. A Novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception is going on at the present time. On the first Monday in December last year there were 64 Communions in the Sophomore Hall chapel; on the corresponding day this year the number was 24. It was 20 degrees colder this year on that day. If the Novena does not pick up we will have one for sluggards, with Mass at eleven o'clock in the morning.

Causes of Impurity - I.

To remove an effect we must first seek its cause. The causes of impurity can be reduced to our three familiar enemies: the world, the flesh and the devil.

The World.

An occasion of sin is any person, place or thing that inclines us to sin. A necessary occasion is one that cannot be avoided; a free occasion is one that can be avoided; a remote occasion contains temptation that can ordinarily be resisted; a proximate occasion contains temptations that will almost certainly cause us to sin. We are bound to avoid the free proximate occasions of sin, and to make remote the proximate necessary occasions. If we do not do this our purpose of amendment is invalid for absolution, and invalid purpose of amendment makes our confession sacriligious. The following occasions of sins of impurity should be noted:

1. Worldly companionship. "Society" at the present time has sold out pretty thoroughly to Satan. Your soul is in danger if impurity is lightly regarded in the company in which you travel. To test the temper of your social circle, imagine Christ as present at one of your gatherings. He said: "He that is not with Me is against Me, and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth." The world laughs at modesty which is the safeguard of purity.
2. Worldly reading. There are two kinds of bad books---obscene works and false philosophy. Of these two classes the second is probably the more dangerous, because it undermines our belief in the existence of sin. Even the Juggler, after repeated warnings, asks us to laugh at the idea of a girl cherishing purity. The spirit of the world comes even into Notre Dame and preys upon ignorance.
3. Corrupt men. With or without a vitiated moral atmosphere in your social group, there may be among your companions one who will save his own soul while he plunges your soul into hell. Any companion who injures your purity by filthy talk or false philosophy or who leads you to places of sin, must be cut off if you crave absolution. He may sin through ignorance or weakness, and receive God's pardon: your duty is to your own soul and to God.
4. Silly girls. The woman of the streets is not a danger to Notre Dame men: one ounce of self-respect will keep him free from her hideous haunts. But the silly girl who wants to be a good sport finds him a chivalrous victim. If you haven't manhood enough to make a silly girl behave you might as well retire into the desert: you will not have manhood enough to be a respectable father of a family.