

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

Dec. 6, 1924.

Urgent.

Our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Alerding, is reported gravely ill. The doctors offer no hope of recovery. We owe him many prayers, and he is our ecclesiastical governor and has been a staunch friend of the University.

Books on the Index.

The library reports a demand for books by Balzac, Dumas, and Hugo. These authors are on the index.

Prayers.

Dr. J. Louis Browne, director of the glee club, requests your charitable prayers for the repose of the soul of his mother, who died a few days ago. The students ask prayers for sick relatives.

Masses, not Flowers.

Among devout Catholics there is a beautiful custom of sending notices of Masses instead of flowers in token of sympathy in bereavement.

The Santa Claus Novena.

You will want to make the Novena of Christmas for your parents. This will start next Tuesday. Those who are not making the Novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception may start at once. The spiritual bouquet card lists this Novena.

A Versatile Engineer.

Perhaps you have not heard that it was an Italian engineer of the sixteenth century who put the Irish on their feet in this country and gave them the push for which they are justly famous. The gentleman was Leonardo da Vinci, famous for the Mona Lisa and the Last Supper. He invented the wheelbarrow.

Enemies to Your Purity (continued.)

The World - II.

On Wednesday's Bulletin, before we were interrupted by your sudden burst of devotion, we considered worldly companions and reading. Amusements come next:

5. Theatres. A play or a movie is a universal occasions of sin if in theme or treatment it is opposed to faith or morals. Suggestiveness, and open portrayal of passion, are the curse of the present-day theatre. If a play is lascivious in character, it cannot be attended without mortal sin; if it has only a touch of suggestion and is moral in theme, it may be attended without sin, provided the individual can distract his mind from the improper matter presented and can put away immediately any bad thoughts that may be evoked. There is general complaint that the run of movies presented in South Bend this fall has been immoral. Responsibility for avoiding the occasion of sin in this matter rests primarily upon the individual.
6. Dances. Dancing may and should be an honest form of recreation. More and more of late it has degenerated into a very impure pastime. The complaints about the character of girls frequenting the Palais Royale and about the character of the dancing there force the conclusion that this place is an occasion of sin and must be avoided. The Bulletin will not recede from this position unless these reports are proved untrue.

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(continued.)

The Flesh.

Men will never be angels. In common with the angels they have a spirit endowed with intelligence and will, but the spirit of man is destined to union with a body. This union subsists throughout life, its interruption constitutes death, and the union is brought about again at the Last Judgment in order that the body, which has shared in vice and virtue may share in reward or punishment.

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The body of man is endowed with certain appetites or passions, which tend to the preservation of the individual and the species. In Adam, before the Fall, these appetites were entirely subject to reason; by original sin they became rebellious against reason, and they now wage relentless "war against the spirit, seeking to drag it down."

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We admire strong, sound flesh; we regard it as manly. But flesh uncontrolled by reason is a subject for tragic pity rather than admiration. The avalanche on the mountainside has the destructive force of matter uncontrolled by mind. "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing."

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Gluttony and sloth are the chief tempters that aid the flesh in its rebellion against reason. Soft living, late sleeping, delicate Eating, alcohol, gorging---in a word, the lack of restraint in bodily luxuries---make your body a god instead of a temple of the Holy Ghost. And when it becomes a god it must be served. No Moloch ever had a more insatiable appetite than pampered flesh.

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An athlete with wonderful natural skill and a strong constitution may have singular success without training, but ruin lies ahead, and when it comes, people will say of him, "A flash in the pan." Exactly the same thing happens in the moral order with the regard to preservation of purity. Don't kid yourself!

The Devil.

The strangest phenomenon the devil sees in the world is the sin-compelling force of unrestrained appetite. He has no body, and no appetite. He must stand in amazement at the force gathered by appetite in its downward course.

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Know him well: he knows you only too well. You can never be as clever as he is, but you can be humble, and with the assistance God gives the humble you can see his cloven hoof in every temptation.

Freshman Hall Special.

On Wednesday and again on Friday morning this week there were a number of new faces from Freshman Hall at the Communion rail---faces that do not appear on Sunday mornings. This means that these freshmen go to breakfast at 7:30 and then to the 8:30 Mass. They should understand that they may come into the church at the end of the 8:30 Mass or anytime thereafter and receive Holy Communion before going to breakfast.

John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,
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