

Religious Bulletin

May 1, 1928.

A Sinless Mary's Month.

Yesterday's Bulletin suggested a sinless month in honor of Our Blessed Mother. Whether your neighbor acts on it or not, you can do it.

Preserving One's Good Name.

"Good girls are led by bad social customs to do things that are unbecoming and dangerous, sometimes trying to sop their consciences by saying that those who know them best will not misunderstand them, and that they do not intend to worry about what idle or malicious tongues may say about them. But that is not the whole of the matter. In the first place there is the danger of sin; a danger common to all humanity. Who trusts a girl more than her mother? And who is more particular that her daughter should not be led into temptation, than a good and loving mother?

"It is not always a question of trusting the individual; it is always a question of trusting too far our poor, weak, and sinfully-inclined human nature. And there is no such thing as having perfect confidence in that. Besides, no girl can be sure that only malicious and uncharitable people will misjudge her. Human nature being what it is, we are all strongly inclined to form ideas about people, and it is the universal practice of mankind to judge others by what they see them do and hear them say. It is not always a logical way to judge and it is often uncharitable; but people will always do it because, however wrong they may be..... it is the tendency of the human mind to form conclusions, and we form them from what we see and hear, or else we would never form them at all.

"At least it is seldom that the gravest sins, murder, lust, or theft, are committed in the presence of witnesses; and circumstantial proof is accepted even in courts of law. Of course, it would be better if people in general would await clear proof, even if circumstantial only, but human nature is prone to error, and so, even our best friends are thrown into doubt by our acting or talking with an appearance of evil.

"But, says impatient youth, let those who will ~~not~~ wait for proof; judge as they will, I cannot help that. This is a clear mistake, and in the long run a painful one. No one was ever happy who was without the good opinion of others. We may bluff others, and to some extent ourselves, into thinking we are indifferent to what people think of us; but at heart we do care; and, caring, we are not happy when others think ill of us. In preserving our good name, we must take the world as it is, not as it ought to be; take human nature as it is accustomed to judge, not as it ought to judge, or to refrain from judging.

"Besides, we must remember that in human life it is usual for actual evil to be accompanied with its appearances; and we cannot expect that when we put on the appearance of evil, even our best friends will be able to see clearly that we are not guilty."

-- The Casket, Antigonish, N.S.

Questions.

55. How can I tell a real scrupulous person to mind his own business?

Ans. tell him you will pray for his conversion.

56. How can you keep impure thoughts from arising?

Ans. Read the leaflet "Temptation is Not Sin."

57. Why are Notre Dame men given so little liberty?

Ans. Why don't you let a baby play with matches?

58. How can you distinguish a Catholic church from the outside?

Ans. By the worn steps.