

First Friday and May
Devotions tonight. Father
Connerton will preach.

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The Meanest Man.

There are many contenders for this dubious honor. In my opinion it isn't the man who poisons dogs, nor yet is it he who slaps the baby or shoots his mother. It is the one who helps spread dirty stories. The dirty story, the obscene joke, is the devil's favorite jimmy by which he pries his way into the soul.

How many serious sins against purity started by laughing over a smutty story? I know of many. Human nature is ever prone to sins of the flesh. It doesn't take much to excite the passions. The double meaning joke never needs a dictionary.

No one would be careless with lighted fire in a hay mow. The prairie-reared would never throw fire into dry grass. Our carnal natures are just as easily turned into raging fires of passion. The one who starts the fire is responsible for the damage done.

The dog-poisoner is mean beyond description. The fire-bug should be shot. What are we to say of the hired man of Satan who spreads the poison of obscenity that degrades the children of God? (From the Easter Bulletin of Father Long, Edgeley, No. Dak.)

Profanity.

Recently in Washington, the famous General Order deprecating swearing and cursing which was originally issued to the Continental Army by George Washington in 1776, was re-printed and sent to all recruiting offices and camps of the United States Army. Among other things we find the Father of his Country saying:

I hope the officers will by word and example endeavor to check any cursing or swearing, and that everyone in the army will realize that we can have little hope of the blessing of heaven on our arms if we insult it by our impiety and folly. Added to this, it is a vice so mean and low, without a temptation, that every man of sense and character detests it.

These words are not from the pulpit or from the catechism but from one who has always been admired for the virtues that become a man. The free and easy use of profanity is not only contrary to the law of God and of decency, but it is also a very fine gauge of an individual's mental poverty in the art of self-expression. Profanity is a stupid way of carrying ourselves through a situation that is too much for our power of expression.

Suppose you make a check-up in regard to this matter. True, most of you can say that you do not blaspheme or take God's holy name in vain. But this is not sufficient. What about the other terms you use? It is an old saying that a man speaks what is in his heart, and if you were to judge yourselves as others instinctively judge you when they hear you speak vulgarly, what would you say is in your heart?

A third strike, a topped hurdle, (a dubbed approach) or a muffed fly doesn't mean that you have to tell the world what you think of it in general and the ball or hurdle in particular.....It is only a habit, of course, and you don't mean what you say...But if you have this habit of cursing, do something about it, and speak always as you should--as you would in the company of God and His Blessed Mother or in the society of anyone else who really holds your respect.

(From the Religious Bulletin of the Northeast Catholic H. S., Philadelphia.)
PRAYERS: (deceased) Hindenburg victims; mother of William C. Potter (trustee); grandfather of Carl and Joe Dackman. Ill, mother of Louis Aleman; Herman O'Hara, '13; mother of Dave Harris; mother of Carl and Joe Dackman; mother and aunt of Tom Powers.