

Benediction and May
Devotions this evening,
7 and 7:30 P.M.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 18, 1938

John Wilson (Walsh)
still needs prayers
for his recovery...

Bad Pictures.

Don't kid yourself. You may say that to look at bad pictures doesn't hurt you. All the same, they do. For your spiritual good, simply admit it.

Why is it bad for you to look at bad pictures? Well, why would it be bad to soak your body in gasoline, then touch it off with a lighted match?

You are young. And your passions are strong. The internal combustion you inherit through original sin is bad enough by itself. Why inflame it by hunting out these bad pictures?

Here's a second angle. If you buy, lend or borrow the foul slop-magazines, you're joining hands with the moron-makers, making more morons, including yourself. It were better a millstone were tied around your neck and you were cast into the sea.

Sure. You say bad pictures don't hurt you. Maybe they don't--while you're looking at them. But they do later on: infallibly, always. They never miss. Every impression registers on your imagination and memory, reacts on your nervous system. When you're pent up . . . Smash! Yes, they're bad business--bad pictures.

You know it. And if you've been kidding yourself, now is high time to quit.

If a person deliberately toys with bad pictures-- never guards his eyes-- he hasn't a chance to win in the struggle against

Bad Thoughts.

He has but one remedy--to cut out consistently the bad pictures.

But even young men who are striving hard to keep a clean mind and heart complain of bad thoughts. They worry about them.

Now as long as bad thoughts are not freely admitted, their mere presence is nothing. They will flit around. Try to forget them. Don't worry. A hobby is great: something to which you can quickly turn; the baseball scores, averages; how many people in Zanzibar; what would "2 pie R" make the Arctic Circle? Already you're a long way off.

As far as mere presence goes, bad thoughts are only temptation-- never sin, till you pause, reflect, and suck out the bad pleasure in them. No matter how long they stay don't let them weary you. It is true, they are pests: but pests prove your patience.

What is more, here is something surprising and very consoling. Even bad thoughts have their good side. They're not only an occasion of sin, but a chance for great virtue. They put you right on the spot. They give you an opportunity to show your loyalty to God and His law. They are the battleground on which you can make yourself truly a Soldier of Christ.

So, look at involuntary bad thoughts not as a terrible burden you wish you did not have to bear. Rather regard them as a challenge to your manliness, an occasion of showing your love for Christ, Who even died on the Cross that you might be pure.

And, mindful of Christ, remember also His Mother, Mary Immaculate. Then without fail you'll come through clean for Him and Her--and yourself!

PRAYERS: (deceased) 5th anniv. friend of Bill Morrey (Freshman); father of Dom Favero (Carroll); aunt of L. Barrett (How) and L. Dillon (Al); Brother Owen's father; friend of Tom Powers (How). Ill, mother of Fr. Carey; Frank Lavelle (Fresh). Four spec. ints.