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Are You a Fighter?

To fight effectively for purity, and its accompanying virtues of unselfishness and nobility, you need an established plan for that holy war. Here is the strategy:

1. Frequently, daily draw upon God's abundant strength in Mass and Holy Communion. If you think you can fight alone, you're crazy.
2. Go daily in prayer to that gracious Virgin who has never denied strength to anyone who has sought her aid. Get acquainted at the Grotto.
3. Develop habits of self-discipline. "All creative liberty," says Chesterton, "is the liberty to limit ourselves."

Self denial is an act of growth, not of mere repression; the battle for self-control is a conflict between the higher self and base bodily desire. John Stuart Mill, who certainly was no Christian ascetic, observed that those who never deny themselves permissible indulgences can be relied upon to gratify their non-permissible desires.

What to do and deny? Abstain from foul magazines and movies. Don't let the devil use drink as an ally. Keep your conversation on a high plane. Demand the best of companions. In your attitude toward the opposite sex, remember that lust is not love. Make yourself do a good day's work, every day. Jump out of bed in time for Mass and Holy Communion. Exercise regularly and you'll do your school work better, too.

You can be a slave or a free man. But, to be a free man, you must FIGHT.

Friday is First Friday.

One of the greatest sources of inspiration and courage for that fight is devotion to the Sacred Heart, especially in the Eucharist. That devotion makes Christ a vivid Friend to us, appeals to our loyalty and sense of fairness.

That Heart is the throne and symbol of Christ's infinite love for us, especially for sinners.

That Heart held out pardon to the traitor, Judas, after his treacherous kiss: "Friend, whereto art thou come?"

That Heart prayed for the pardon of His executioners: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

That Heart forgave St. Peter after his sworn denial of Him.

That Heart has forgiven us, too, all our treacheries, infidelities and denials. He asks reparation and love on First Fridays, particularly by devotion to the Eucharist.

How will your sense of fairness respond to the words of Christ to St. Margaret Mary:

"Behold the Heart which has so loved men and in return only receives ingratitude and contempt. That is why I ask thee to make reparation...In spite of all My eagerness to do them good, they treat Me with coldness and contempt."

Generous Souls will answer with Mass, Communion and Adoration on First Friday.

PRAYERS: (deceased) John P. Sexton '33. Ill, relative of Brother Columbanus, C.S.C.; brother of Phil Dahar '39. Five special intentions.