

---  
Why Penance?

I know what you are saying: "These sketches were used last week, and not so much as a line has been changed in them." You are right.

II.

It was impossible for us to make any changes because these characters have not changed one bit since we saw them seven days ago. John bought at least one dangerous magazine every day last week. Little Jimmy goes on disobeying and kicking at his mother. Sue, fair Sue, continues to whisper to all ears the faults of her friends. Joe proceeds to earn his living by theft.

III.

Why are these people (and maybe you) going on like this, committing the same sins day after day? Repeated falls have formed in them habits of sin. Habit draws them on to sin, makes it easy for them to repeat old offenses. You can see what a terrible enemy bad habits are.

IV.

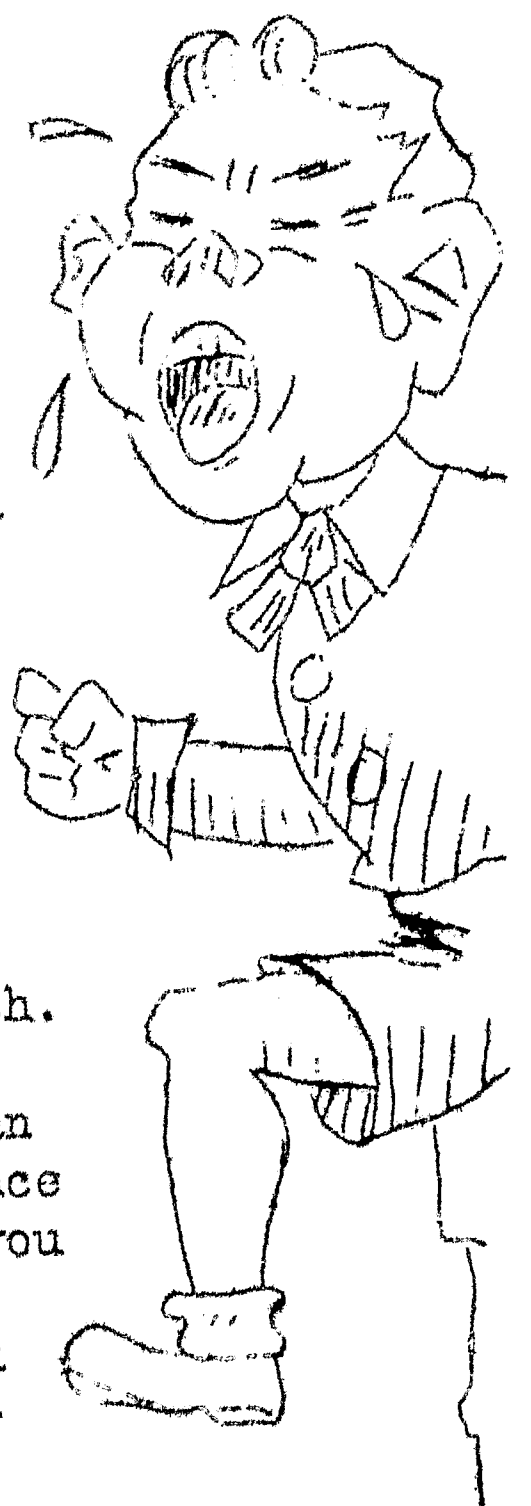
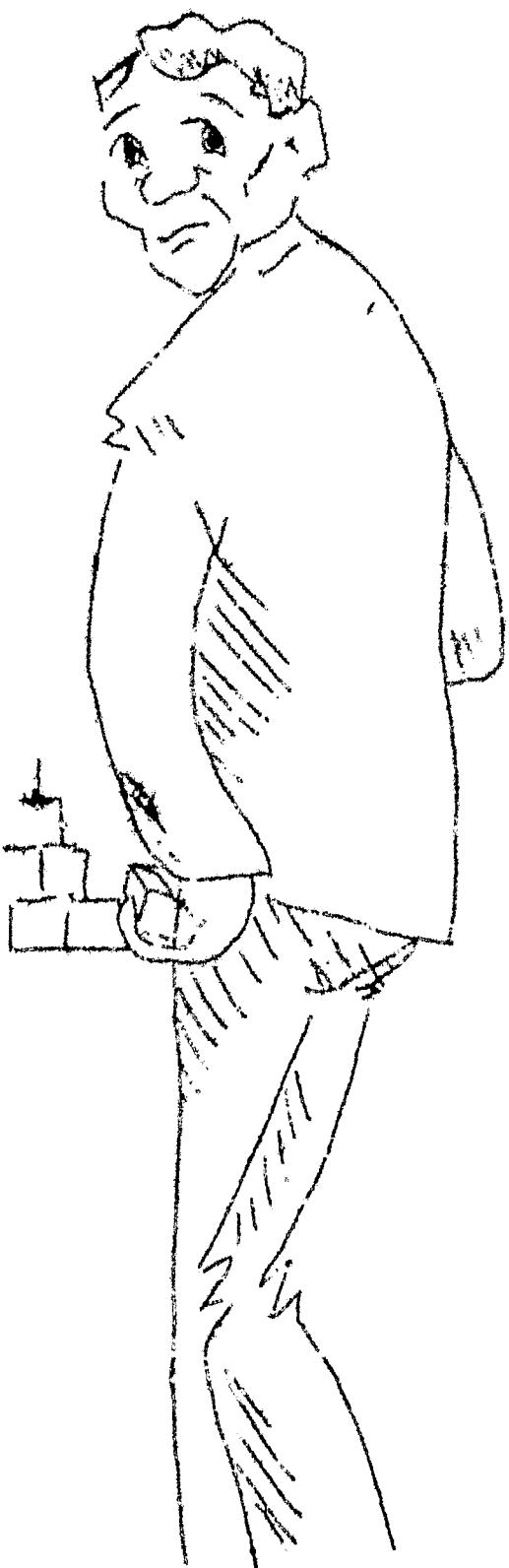
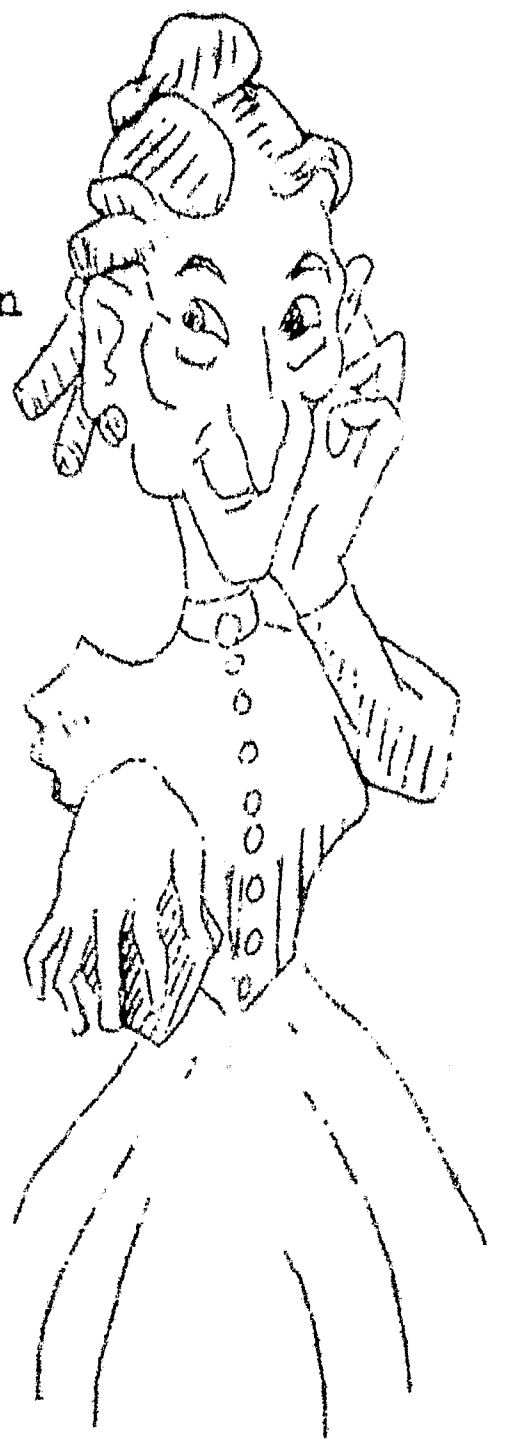
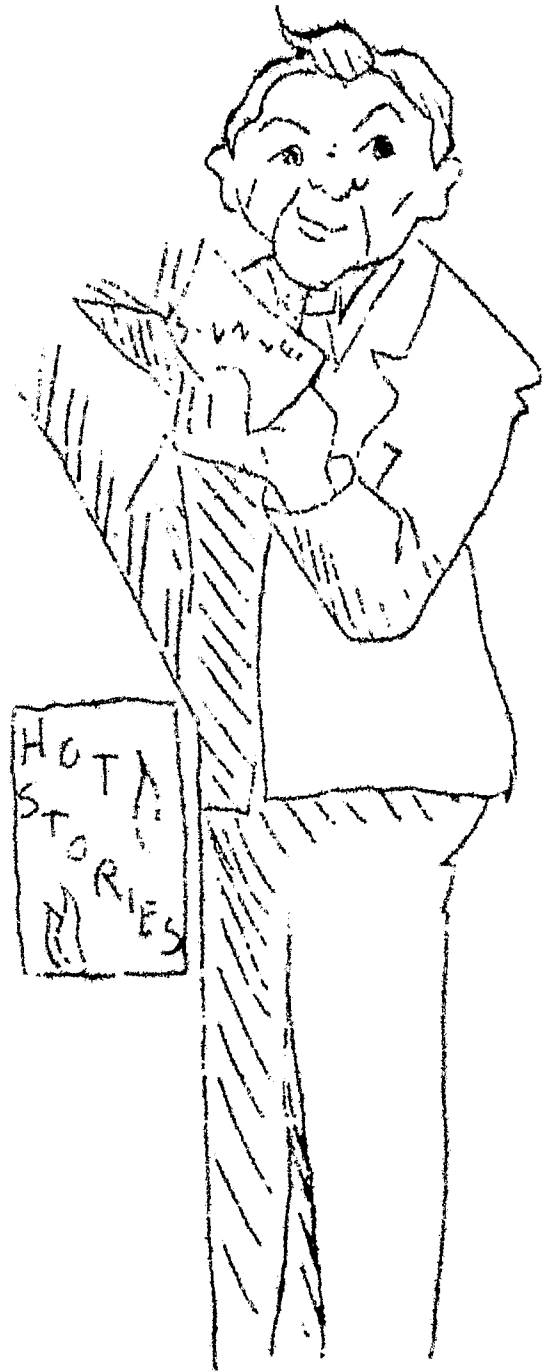
Now John, Jimmy, Sue and the rest of us, if we have any sense, will try to overcome bad habits. And that brings us to the second purpose of PENANCE, namely, the uprooting of bad habits so that we gain full control of all our powers.

V.

LENT is a time to get control of oneself. Habit must not become King. You must be the Ruler, day in and day out. Do you have any habits of sin? Do you repeatedly: lie, come late to Sunday Mass, drink to excess, encourage bad thoughts or acts? After all, maybe you are the John in the upper left corner, or maybe Joe.

VI.

Give up the occasion of sin and habits will vanish. Deny yourself extra sleep. Go to Mass and offer yourself. Receive Christ into your body so He can put new life into your weak soul. There is penance in acting in this manner. How much penance are you doing? John, Joe, Sue (and you), if Christ sees you at Mass and Communion daily, He will know you are trying. But if you seldom receive the Sacraments, well, how can He lead you through the Heavenly Gates?? "Unless...penance...perish."



PRAYERS: (Deceased) two relatives of A. G. Webber (O.C.); Miss Edith Donovan; Mr. Alfred Blackhurst; father of Fr. Kennedy, C.S.C.; Sr. M. Apollonia, C.S.C.; Geo. Neill; Father Wm. P. Clark. (Ill) Father of Paul Dohr (Ly). Eight special intentions.