

N.D. World War 11 Dead.
23. Wm. J. McJunkin '42
Say Rosary tonight for him.

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Confessions every night
in Dillon, Cavanaugh
and Zahm. Press Buzzer.

A Maid and Chastity

St. Agnes died for chastity.

She had consecrated her body to Christ, and she would not violate her vow.

The beauty of her person had caught the eye of a Roman pagan. He asked her hand in marriage. She refused. The Roman court tried to persuade her to put aside her resolution of virginity. When mild entreaty failed they employed fear and terror to break down her resistance. They showed her the pagan instruments of torture: fire, fleshhooks, the agonizing wheel was set in motion. Nothing terrified her.

They dragged this young maid before idols and ordered her to offer incense to their false gods. She raised her hand, but not to offer incense, rather to make upon her consecrated body the Sign of the Cross.

They tried to take her chastity from her, and they failed. She had no fears. She stood before the mob and spoke in clear, determined words. No one misunderstood them:

"You may stain your hands with my blood, for I am only a helpless child. But you never shall profane this body that is consecrated to Jesus Christ."

And they killed her. A martyr for chastity.

The Elements Of Chastity.

1. An Idea. Chastity cannot be practiced until one has a true concept of what it is. Briefly, it is watching over a trust. God has shared with every man and woman His power of creating life. In the use of that power God has attached a pleasure. The pleasure is for legitimate use in marriage. God trusts His children to use their creative power according to His law. When men and women endanger the creative power, they betray the trust God has placed in them. These are traitors to their God: those who take enjoyment in immodest thoughts and lustful desires; the teller of suggestive stories; the patron of indecent literature. Agnes kept her trust.
2. A Conviction. An idea is not sufficient to drive a man to heroism. Agnes had more than an idea of the dignity of her body. She had a conviction that God had given her a tremendous assignment. She had looked long at God and the dignity bestowed upon her; a fire was enkindled and no Roman mob was to change it. Conviction comes from prayerful thought. Men who kneel before the Blessed Sacrament and before the Virgin at the Grotto want chastity, and they become chaste.
3. Power. "Without me you can do nothing." Christ makes men and women pure. He made Magdalene a saint; He changed Augustine into a holy man. Christ is in the Mass, in Holy Communion. He who brings his soul and body to the altar will become perfectly pure.

The Novena for Purity is now in progress. Are you making it?

PRAYERS: (deceased) uncle of Ed Cashman (Wal). (Ill) grandfather of Jim Donnelly (St. Eds) Two Thanksgivings. Two Special Intentions.