

Confessions: after supper  
in Basement Chapel, 6:00.  
And at Night Prayer.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
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Consultation: after 7:30 P.M.,  
141 Sorin (Fr. Craddick) and  
107 Cavanaugh (Fr. Simonitsch)

### Bad Thoughts.

Out in California, a truck loaded with 1500 sticks of dynamite was travelling at normal speed along a highway when the driver detected the odor of something burning. A few hurried looks revealed to him that the engine of the truck was on fire. The driver kept his head. He did not abandon the vehicle and allow it to explode on the highway. Instead he drove it deep into an adjoining potato field. Parking it there, he leaped out and ran back to the road to warn oncoming motorists. In a few minutes the truck blew up with a tremendous blast. No one was killed or injured, thanks to the heroism and quick-thinking of the driver.

A stick of high explosive is not an article to be avoided under all conditions. Many tons of dynamite are put to good use every day in breaking the way for necessary roads and bridges, in making war ammunition for demolishing enemy objectives. "It's good," we say, yet we hurry to add, "but it's pretty dangerous stuff."

So with bad thoughts; they are dynamite. Sexual images are not bad, that is, sinful in themselves, otherwise no theological work on the subject of purity could be printed for priests, nor could professional men, like doctors and lawyers, handle cases involving problems of sex and married life, nor could pamphlets be printed on the subject of purity for young people, for every discussion or treatise on this matter is bound to create corresponding images. But like the dynamite, sexual thoughts are pretty dangerous stuff. They have enticed more than one man into impurity, and have blasted others into hell.

### When Sinful.

Some people have an incorrect conception about what constitutes purity in thought. They have the wild idea that purity implies freedom from all temptation, from all impure images. They consider themselves to have sinned if they simply discover an immodest phantasm in their imagination. These anxious souls must change their approach to purity for two reasons: for the sake of peace of heart and to lessen the number power of temptation, for anxiety makes temptation more rampant and more strong.

Catholic theology says that sin is not in the discovery of an immodest thought or desire, but in the discovery plus truly wanting it, encouraging it or toying and dilly-dallying with it before trying to escape from the thought. A day filled with the worst temptation does not imply sin, unless the will sought evil. One must will to do wrong before he becomes guilty of sin.

There are people who carry dynamite on their person. They even seek out the stuff, buy it and hoard it in their rooms. Impure stories, suggestive shows, lewd pictures and books playing up sex are just that -- dynamite. He who plays with a beehive of sexy material is bound to have a swarm of evil thoughts, and of course, he is going to be stung by sin.

When tempted by impurity, if one said a short prayer to the Blessed Virgin, or tried to center his attention on other subject-matter, like studies or sports, he has not committed a serious sin, if he has sinned at all, because the attempt to run away from the temptation showed that his will did not completely embrace the evil at its door-steps. When the driver of the dynamite truck recognized danger afoot, he lost no time in getting out of that perilous spot. He ran for his life. Without frequent Mass and Holy Communion you will be slow to run; you may not run at all. If you won't frequent the Sacraments there will be an explosion, and the devil will pick up your parts -- in hell.

PRAYERS (deceased) father of Father Lisewski, CSC; uncle of Bill Hamilton (Cav)