

Retreat for Sorin,
Dillon, Walsh and
Alumni - Sat. 8:45 P.M.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 5, 1948

The retreat will be
held in Alumni Hall
Chapel.

St. Thomas And Purity.

Like all young men, Thomas Aquinas had to fight temptations of the flesh -- until he conquered one tremendous temptation, and then God rewarded him by freeing him forever from all allurements of the flesh. How Thomas received this extraordinary gift is worth recalling on the eve of his feast, March seventh.

Thomas wanted to become a Dominican monk. His mother decided against it. But Thomas persisted so much in his determination that his mother imprisoned him with the hope that a period of confinement would persuade her son to change his mind. Thomas was not at all disturbed by the jail sentence. Friends smuggled in books, and came to visit him. The story of Thomas' fight against temptation is centered around his two brothers who took upon themselves the task of breaking his spirit when they returned from the wars.

The two brothers invited some of their army friends to Thomas' cell, where they put on a low form of entertainment, singing lewd songs and telling impure stories. Yet this did not perturb Thomas. So the brothers decided on one last method of bending the will of their virtuous brother.

It's an old saying that no one appreciates more keenly the power of purity than the impure. The two brothers' thought that Thomas' strength lay in his purity. So they made their plans accordingly.

It was to be an easy matter -- a young temptress was to bring about Thomas' fall. A beautiful girl was hired and placed in Thomas cell. Once Thomas learned of her business he acted with great speed. Rushing to the fireplace, he seized a burning brand and directing it toward the girl, drove her from his room. Thomas closed the door when the temptress was gone and burnt a cross into it.

Then Thomas knelt down and begged God to grant him purity of mind and body. A gentle sleep came over him and, as he slept, two angels appeared to assure him that his prayer was heard. They then girded him with a white cord saying, "We gird thee with the girdle of perpetual virginity." From that hour forward Thomas never experienced any movement of passion.

Purity of heart and body is undoubtedly a great aid to learning. So call on St. Thomas to preserve you from the slightest taint of impurity.

Friends and students of Prof. McCusker (Chem. Dept.) are invited to attend a special Mass for his recovery, in Sorin Hall Chapel, Sunday at 8:00 A.M.

