

Why This Novena Began Early.

The Novena for Purity: ordinarily one expects a Novena to end on the day preceding the feast for which it is a preparation. The present Novena for Purity, addressed to the Immaculate Conception, will end two days before the feast. Why? Because there are so many of you who are always late with everything, and who always begin their Novena a day or two after the rest of us.

You May Begin Tomorrow.

The inveterate procrastinators, the I'll-start-tomorrow big wheelers and little wheelers, the week-end Pistols who rest at Notre Dame between shots, and the lackadaisical Catholics who seldom read Bulletins or pay attention to announcements, may begin their Novena tomorrow and end it on the day before the feast.

To make this Novena you should receive Holy Communion and pray the Rosary daily. You might also add a daily act of self-denial, such as rising promptly, making a 15-minute meditation each night before hitting the sack.

Why You Ought To Make The Novena.

If we were ever in an era of carnality we are in one today. The heavy accent on sensuality no one in his right mind can gainsay. The devil has exploited the very weakest point in our human defences--the natural craving for pleasure, more intense pleasure, more exciting and prolonged pleasure. He could attack us directly, but will not if his minions do the job instead.

All virtue is assailed in these days, but against the virtue of purity we have a relentless and sustained onslaught, the likes of which have not been seen since the days of pagan Rome. The machinations of the talented libertines to justify their own depravity has resulted in a flood of propaganda--through sexy novels, 2-bit pocket manuals, objectionable movies, prurient investigations of barnyard morality, immoral burlesques--all tending to excite the imagination and encourage the mind and will to lunge headlong into mortal sin. Every decent soul they debauch, every unrepentant victim they continue to enslave, is a potential enemy of your purity.

What You Can Do.

"As I know that I could not otherwise be continent except God gave it, I went to the Lord, and besought Him." --Wisdom, 8:21.

Prayer, the sacraments, self-denial and watchfulness will preserve this beautiful virtue. A good confession, prayer, self-denial and watchfulness will restore it if it has been lost. Let those who have preserved baptismal innocence remember that innocence is not virtuousness. The innocent become virtuous after their innocence has been assailed. Virtue implies temptation, struggle, victory--with God's grace. . . . Those who would regain purity should know that a pampered body cannot be controlled, that self-denial overcomes self-indulgence, that idle day-dreaming leads to destruction, that drink has been the downfall of many, that "he who loves danger shall perish in it," that without Christ he can do nothing.

Consecration to Mary Immaculate, daily Holy Communion, the Food of the strong, avoiding dangers of sin, meditation on the certainty of Death and Judgment, on Heaven and Hell, will buy back what has been lost. Magdalene as well as Mary stood at the foot of the Cross; the chaste Jerome and the penitent Augustine are both Fathers of the Church. Magdalene and Augustine and other penitents give us tangible proof of Christ's wonderful mercy without which soiled and wounded souls would capitulate and despair. Prayers: (deceased) Bill O'Loughlin, '39; sister-in-law of Father Collins, CSC; Bob Knox, '28 died enroute to Rome; grandmother of A.L. Hundshamer. Ill, Dick Griffith.