

Communions a week ago: 2174 University of Notre Dame
Communions yesterday: 1613 Religious Bulletin
Facts don't lie. October 8, 1951

Don Burkhart (Morr.) is seriously ill in St. Joseph's Hospital. Prayers requested

Drunkenness.

A socially prominent but sad mother went west to claim the dead body of her daughter, who had been slashed to death by an unemployed bell-hop, whose common-law wife she had become. The mother said she bore no hatred toward her daughter's murderer, and commented, "Out of this tragedy will come some good. It will teach people there is no happiness in alcohol."

In 1947 the late Father Dolan, a Carmelite, founded the Matt Talbot Legion for rehabilitating alcoholics. More than 10,000 drink addicts have been partially or completely cured through the influence of this legion.

The Matt Talbot Legion is now sponsoring a national crusade of prayer and education for alcoholics. Educational leaflets describe the methods used by Matt Talbot, the saintly Irish workingman now being considered for canonization, in his long heroic struggle against excessive drinking.

Said Carmelite Father Grey, new national director, "Prayer is coming to be recognized as the most powerful remedy to cure the spiritual ills associated with and very often causing alcoholism. To wipe out the ravages of alcoholism, America's No. 1 spiritual, social, and economic menace, we recommend the ageless remedies of the Church against temptation: Prayer, the Mass, and the Sacraments. . . . We are anxious to enroll every American family in the legion, especially those families that have been and felt the impact of excessive use of alcohol."

The Pledge.

To sign the pledge might be "the smart thing to do," as one student put it. It is an act of virtue. But it depends on how smart you are whether the act is natural or supernatural. To abstain for purely natural reasons--health, self-respect, thrift--the act is natural. Elevate the motives and put them on the supernatural level with the love of God as the prevailing motive, and you have a supernatural act.

Good Motives Do Not Come A Dime A Dozen.

Good example. If you don't drink, or if you drink but never abuse liquor, you don't particularly need the pledge for yourself. If you are a drinker, test yourself to see just how much of a grip it has on you by taking the pledge for three months. If your example in signing the pledge for three months will encourage a roommate who ought to sign it for a similar period, you should be aware of an opportunity to help a friend save his soul.

Atonement. If you have abused liquor in the past, you owe reparation for the injury done to God; if you have given bad example by excessive drinking, have saddened your mother and father, or harmed the good name of your school or your church, you have additional need of atonement. Taking the pledge may be a very "smart thing to do."

Spiritual Self-doctoring.

In the spiritual order there are no self-made men. As one saint wrote, "There is nothing more miserable. nothing more ready to fall than he who has no guide, no leader on the way to God." St. Vincent Ferrer said that Our Lord will never bestow his grace (without which we can accomplish nothing) on him who having a spiritual guide, neglects this means by persuading himself that he is smart enough to strike out for himself a path to save his soul. . . . In other words, the wise man goes to a physician when he gets sick and consults him to stay in good health.

Prayers: seriously ill, father of Charles J. Colgan, '39; mother of Mary 'Beth' Komives; Father Schulte; Mr. Jack Peterson. 2 Special Intentions.