

March 6, 1952

Junior Retreat.

Closed weekend retreat for the juniors begins Saturday night. Father Hesburgh conducting. . . A retreat isolates us from the busy days of study; it gives us a chance to be quiet, to reflect and to meditate. . . It is during such periods of spiritual retreat that we make ourselves more receptive to new insights and graces which come directly from God. . . If God's displeasure is such that it keeps the uneasy conscience ill at ease, what must be the peace that comes from doing what pleases Him?

Conflicting Motives.

We are governed and we will be judged by our motives. Our motives determine our behavior, for bad or for good. The will in itself is not weak, because it is free-- and there is no weakness in freedom. But the free will is moved by the motives which solicit it. If the motive is weak, the will is weak.

Weak wills, as we look at them, are usual among those who have no ideals, no strong convictions, are influenced by caprice, or who are strong-armed by human respect and the opinions of the "gang".

But God made the mind and the will to know and love Him above all things. When there is deflection from this goal a conflict rages on the inside, between what we ought to be and what we are.

"What exchange shall a man give for his soul?" It is during Lent, when we practice penance, or during adoration, when we talk to God personally, that we see the error of our ways and begin anew to be what God wants us to be.

Shall We Give Away Our Freedom?

Bishop Sheen puts it well when he says that every person gives away his freedom. Some give it to public opinion, some become slaves of their own passions; some give away their freedom to dictators or the State, but some give their freedom away to God. Public opinion, dictators, flesh, alcohol, when we serve them, never try to set us free, but our free will is a primary concern of Jesus Christ: "If it is the Son Who makes you free men, you will have freedom in earnest." (John 8:36.)

Your Charity.

In addition to what you have contributed to the Jim Aoki fund, other contributions have amounted to \$12--3 dollars for the missions; another 9 dollars for Jim. . . Do not throw away cast-off clothing. The local St. Vincent De Paul Society has need of it. See your student chaplains.

The Seven Via Matris Stations.

One station for each of the Seven Sorrows of Mary will be erected in Sacred Heart Church for tomorrow night's inaugural. These are temporary but you may gain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions for making the Via Matris. . . It is well to remind you that a plenary indulgence is also gained for making the Way of the Cross. . . If there is anything that will wise us up to what Christ and His Mother have done for us it is meditating on the stations. . . The Novena booklets, which will be distributed Friday night, are to be left in the pews for subsequent devotions. A booklet with a better cover may be purchased at the pamphlet racks.

Closing Thought: Those in whom moral development lags woefully behind their intellectual growth become skeptics, cynics and "debunkers" of the religious point of view.

Prayers: (deceased) wife of Tom Cooke, '25; grandmother of Don Hanisch; anniversary of father of Garvey Jones. Ill, Pastor Vilafore; Brother Francis, C.S.C.