Watch the bulletin boards in your hall for Weekend of Recollection program. Go to Confession tonight.

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Seniors Closed Retreat begins with 7:15 Mass Tomor-row in the Church. Confessions tonight after the Novena, and at Mass.

With An Eye To The Future

Musician Lawrence Welk is the man whose champagne music has won him friends all over the country. It was Welk, too, who was invited to the President's Inaugural to play a singular honor! He has a top-flight television program, as you know. Yes, there's no doubt about it -- he's moved into the big time. Throughout it all he has remained very modest. This is all very interesting.

But what you may not know is that Welk has a great devotion to Our Lady. It may not make headlines, but he considers her his silent partner. As a boy he cultivated a special devotion to her. When he reached man's estate, the rosary became a staff in his daily life. The Family Rosary is a "must" in the Welk home each day.

Even more to the point, Welk believes that visual evidence is a vital part of his Faith. And so, outside the master bedroom in his home stands a white marble statue of Our Lady, in the center of a curved picture window. It is continually illuminated. Why? "Because it brings our religion to our senses," says this man whose English isn't so fluid as his piety. "It inspires me. It reminds me of the church at home when I was a child."

You think of all the crackpots in Hollywood and elsewhere, and then recall that here's a fellow who has come up from nothing the hard way; who has merited the highest acclaim in his profession, yet has the wisdom to walk humbly, and decently, making sure that he never moved beyond the protection of God and His Mother. Nor has he deviated from the path marked out by the laws of God.

So often, when wealth and success and acclaim come to so many others, we find them dipping into original theology, and becoming independent of God and His Commandments. We hope that Welk remains humble enough to avoid that pitfall; and that the flush of worldly success will always be tempered by the soft glow from the illuminated statue in his home. For ultimately there will come for him, as for all of us, a day when the roar of popularity subsides, when the applause dies down, and the hands and arms no longer wield the baton. The memory of man will grow short, and the world will grow dim before his eyes, and his music will be hushed, and the fever of life will be over. On that day Welk will stand on the threshold of Eternity. The only things remaining for him to take on the long journey will be his Faith, and the rosaries he recited, and the exemplary devotion he retained for God and the Blessed Mother. These are the things that Welk insists on retaining now, in spite of a million worldly distractions. Let's pray that he, and other God-fearing men in the public eye, will always retain the things that count most in Eternity!

We think he's pretty sharp -- keeping such a clear eye on the things of Eternity!

Are You As Sharp?

Once in awhile, it's a good thing to sit down and take stock of our own attitude toward the values of the things in this world, and the prize that God holds out to those who are mindful of him. Sometimes we let the values of this world get the upper hand in our lives. Our serious participation in this Weekend of Recollection can bring us up to date with not only the Lenten Season, but also save us from such confusion for Eternity. And that's very important.

Tonight the Bengals for Charity: After the Novena, come over and see "Cherry Nose" Murphy wallop "Trish Jack" Levandowski. Watch "Canvas Pants" Kane slaughter "Terrible Tom" Tierney. See "One Punch" Perry powder "Dynamite" Donovan. "Flat Nose" Fahey faces "Ugly Ed" Malone -- all appearing under the one big tent. Don't miss them.