

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Notre Dame, Ind.



THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY will be grateful to you for your unwanted and old clothes. These will be passed on to the needy of the locality. A big box will be placed in each hall to receive what you regard as no longer needed.

● HAVE YOU COMPLETED AND TURNED IN YOUR RELIGIOUS SURVEY? Try to get it finished this evening and deposit it in the envelope on your hall bulletin board. They will be picked up tomorrow.

● TONIGHT AT 6:30 there will be devotions at the Grotto. Then, at 6:45 there will be Novena devotions in honor of Our Sorrowful Mother in Sacred Heart Church. Confessions will be heard following the devotions.

● ABOUT THIS TIME OF YEAR, the librarians start wishing that some kind, Burbankian chap would cross their books with homing pigeons. Start now to return borrowed books, etc., to their proper owners and places.

● TRINITY SUNDAY falls on June 12 this year. If you know of a stray or two who hasn't made his Easter Duty, bring him to confession. He will be glad you spoke up. And some day he'll be honest enough to tell you so.


● ANY TRUTH TO THE RUMOR the campus Monogram Club will disband? A regrettable situation, if true. No campus club has been as ready with blood donors and Christmas baskets through the years as has this one.


● EXPOSITION continues week-days in the Lady Chapel, Noon to 4:45.

● PRAYERS. Deceased: Grandmother of Steve Kiley of Alumni; aunt of Richard Juliani of Fisher; George N. Shea, '40; Firmin D. Fusz, Jr., '25. Ill: Aunt of David Cormier of Dillon; father of Rev. George C. Bernard, C.S.C. Three Special Intentions.





THE NEWSPAPERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY this week took notice of an article in the May 21, 1960 issue of Ave Maria magazine. The article entitled, "Are Some Sports Immoral?" is authored by Notre Dame's Vice-President for Student Affairs. Of especial interest is the discussion of the upcoming Indianapolis "500". We encourage you to pick up a copy of the Ave Maria at the church, but provide here the questions and answers concerning racing.

 *Is there a Christian view of sports?*

 The Christian attitude toward sports is the age-old one of developing a sound mind in a sound body. Man is both body and soul and can't neglect either one or the other without becoming somewhat warped.

Often sports serve a necessary purpose in a man's life by giving him recreation that nothing else will give him. Very often a good swim, or a game of golf or handball will do more to restore someone's energy than a whole afternoon's nap. It's only when sports become a preoccupation in one's life, get out of perspective, that they are bad. In this, though, we are speaking of amateur sports, because professional sports are a different matter. One doesn't become a professional athlete for the fun it gives him.


 *Let's take the Indianapolis 500-mile auto race, for instance. Would it be immoral?*


 I'd like to go back to one of my original statements. A sport has to be judged according to its rules in practice. There is no question that the Indianapolis "500" is a dangerous race if these figures you have here are correct. [Since 1909, 18 drivers or mechanics have been killed during the race, 20 killed during qualifications or practice runs. In the early years of the race 12 spectators also were killed.] It seems to me that the danger of loss of life is enough to make it immoral.


I know that an argument could be built against this based on its entertainment value for the spectators and


the scientific data which result from testing the tires, batteries, motors, etc., under tremendous stress, but I don't think these factors are great enough to offset the very serious danger to the lives of those participating. Nor is the economic lure of prize money for the drivers enough of an inducement to permit them to enter the "500," at least in my opinion.

The track there was built several years ago; if it were rebuilt for the powerful cars of today this might lessen the danger. Also, if the cars simply went around the track one behind another without maneuvering in and out for position and leadership — this would lessen the danger somewhat, but it would also make it very dull for the spectators. The spectators might not want to see anyone killed, but their thrills come from the dangers involved and the tremendous chances taken by the drivers in their maneuvering back and forth. And they want thrills; if these were taken away — if each driver raced only against a time clock — probably very few spectators would attend the race and those who did would find it boring.

 *Could these conditions be changed? Say there was a death only every 10 years, would that make a difference?*

 I don't think the statistics alone give us the final judgment. It might be that in 10 years there would be no deaths. But the excessive danger could be there.

 *All right, then. How do you differentiate this from skiing, mountain-climbing, bobsledding, or from any sport in which there is some danger? Or from the danger of walking in crowded traffic?*

 The difference is in the situation itself. Take skiing, for instance. One might hit a tree, or lose control on a very icy slope. But there is a difference. Most of the dangers are foreseeable and you can take precautions against them. For instance, you tackle only those slopes that are comparable to your skiing ability under such and such conditions. You more or less control the danger in proportion to your ability in the particular sport.

But in auto racing, at least in some kinds, there are too many factors entering in above and beyond your control. In a sense you are relying tremendously on the skill of other drivers when you race around the track with them at a fantastic rate of speed weaving in and out, back and forth, always jockeying for position. Then, too, you have a much greater chance of mechanical failure in such circumstances than you have in other sports. And, finally, the risk is greater. A skier might have a considerable number of falls or accidents and still survive.