

Religious Bulletin.

May 12, 1923.

The Catholic Church and the Liquor Problem.

The Catholic Church regards alcoholic beverages in the same light as she does on other creatures given us by God for our comfort and utility. It approves their rational use and condemns, on moral grounds, their abuse.

Temperance in the History of the Church.

While total abstinence for a motive of virtue has always been commended, the Church has never imposed it. It imposes on its members the duties of the natural laws of temperance; and by the moral sanctions of temperance the Church made sober, temperate nations out of drunken and dissolute people of Central Europe. In Spain, France and Italy today Alcoholic beverages are used as food, and drunkenness is almost unknown. When you see a drunk there you always conclude that he is an American.

Aids to Temperance.

Al Slaggert recently sent on an Editorial from the New Haven Journal-Courier praising the Catholic Total Abstinence Society and upholding the "pledge" as an additional aid to right conduct. One passage will strike those who strike for freer discipline at Notre Dame as an aid to character development.

"The discipline of resistance is good, but there are limits. The state does not tolerate allurements of vice in order that self-conquest may reinforce character. There will be enough opportunity for ignorance and confidence of youth to wreck him without stacking the cards in the form of multiplied perils."

The Pledge.

Every decent person, no matter how hilarious he may be, respects another man's pledge. If you can say "I have a pledge" you are safe from outside persuasion.

The Limited Pledge.

If some special season or function is a temptation to you, take a pledge while you are sober to extend over the time of danger. Take a pledge not to drink except in your own home. Take a pledge to extend over vacation. Take a pledge to extend from now till a week after homecoming. Write a letter giving your views on this subject -- for the protection of next year's Freshmen.

The Formula.

"I promise, in memory of the Sacred thirst of Our Lord upon the cross, to abstain from all intoxicating liquors for(Determine the time limit for yourself.)"

Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,
Prefect of Religion.