

Religious Bulletin.  
December 1, 1923.

The Novena For Purity.

The Novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception began this morning. The Wise Man in the Old Testament said: "I know that without God I could not be continent." That is the message of the Holy Ghost. To preserve purity, or to regain it if lost, prayer is essential.

Is the Novena Needed?

Read the following item, clipped from a Catholic paper:

AGE OF GIRLS DROPS  
FROM 24-28 TO 14-18  
IN HOMES OF REFUGE.

Washington, D.C., Oct. 30. -- Addressing a meeting here in the interest of the Florence Crittenton Home the Rev. Harry D. Mitchel, pastor of the Metropolitan M.E. Church, commented on the fact that girls seeking refuge in such institutions today on an average, much younger than in former generations. Years ago, he said, the average age was from 24 to 28 years of age, while today it is 14 to 18.

"Something has gone wrong with civilization," continued Dr. Mitchel. "The blame can't be placed on the home. I rather think that the responsibility to God has gone out of our minds."

Note Particularly:

1. The age has dropped ten years;
2. It now corresponds with the high school age;
3. The change coincides with the introduction of sex instruction into high school;
4. The main cause is lack of belief in Hell.

What Has Happened to the Notion of God?

Indiana was made the subject of a recent religious survey by the Institute of Social and Religious Research, a New York body. The survey shows the following statistics on religious affiliations:

Catholics.....	275,914
Jews.....	25,833
Protestants.....	793,951
Other Christians.....	5,675
Pagans.....	1,734,137

The pagans have Indiana: 61% of the population has no religion. More than half of the Protestants are children (486,140) -- which means that many of the parents have turned pagan. The children average twelve hours a year of religious instruction.