

The Novena for Purity.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Pure Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, occurs on the eighth of December. Each year it is customary at Notre Dame to hold a Novena in preparation for this feast. Since it is the feast of the Purity of the Blessed Virgin, the particular favor we beg during this Novena is the grace of Holy Purity, with all that the virtue implies. The Novena will begin this year on Sunday, November 30, and will end on Monday, December 8, the day of the feast.

The Part of Grace.

Holy Scripture teaches, and experience confirms, that without the grace of God continence, or the restraint of our sensual appetites, is impossible for any considerable period of time. Pohle-Preuss (Grace, p. 120) lays down the following sources of human infirmity:

1. Concupiscence, or rebellion of the passions against reason;
2. Imperfection of our ethical judgment;
3. Inconstancy of the will;
4. Weariness caused by continued resistance to temptation.

It is the part of grace to hold passion in check, to correct our judgments and give us a clearer knowledge of God and of sin, to steady the will, and constantly refresh us for the fight against the world, the flesh and the devil.

In Our Very Midst.

You need not go to St. Thomas and the Scholastics or to such practical mystics as St. Francis de Sales and St. Alphonsus for proof of the assertion laid down above. You will find it here at home. Look over the little pamphlets of experience with frequent Communion, written by yourselves and your companions, and you will find statement after statement that temptations have been lessened by the graces of frequent Communion, that strong passions have been checked, that the conscience has been made more sensitive to sin, that daily grace has given daily-renewed vigor to fight temptation.

The Desirability of Purity.

Purity is a virtue so noble, so elevating, so manly, so strong, so brave, that even libertines stand in awe of it. Rakes and profligates may rail against it and sneer, calling it an impossibility, denying its existence, but bring them into the presence of purity and their foul tongues are silenced. "Which of you shall convince me of sin?" silenced the traducers of Our Blessed Saviour. It is only under the influence of strong drink, maddening reason, that the profligate loses his awe in the presence of purity. The pure man cannot be a coward: he has fought too many fights; he cannot be base: love of God has elevated him above it; he cannot be a traitor: fidelity has burned into his soul. Purity is a desirable virtue for men.

Prayers.

In your charity pray for the souls of the following deceased persons:
Joseph M. Byrne, an alumnus-trustee of the University.
A relative of Father Healey.
A relative of Isfried Probst.
Two friends of Joe Sullivan, of Brownson, one a death-bed convert.
An uncle of Edward McGauley.
Three other relatives of students.

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