

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

April 20, 1925.

Prayers.

In your charity remember the soul of Sister Bethlehem, who died Saturday afternoon. Her life was dedicated to the needs of the students, and for more than thirty years she took care of them in the infirmary. Robert Madden's brother died Sunday morning. Another student asks prayers for two relatives who died within the past two weeks.

The Novena for Perseverance.

The Novena began this morning. During the nine days you are asked to receive Holy Communion and say the Litany of St. Joseph. The Novena is recommended to those who strengthen character, to those who find that they are growing lax in devotion, and to all who want a happy death when God sees fit to call them.

The Enemies to Perseverance.

Every time we commit sin we break an oft-repeated resolution, and for every sin we can find a reason stuck away in our character---some weakness that has not been eliminated, some tendency strong enough to break down our resolution, some habit that has not been rooted out. We cannot fight our enemies unless we know them, and it may do some good to bring them out in the open. Look over this list of Common enemies of perseverance; pick out your enemies; learn how to fight them:

1. Comfort is the great American deadly sin. Our civilization has taken the dangerous form of removing pain and effort, the two great natural aids to character development; and our salvation depends upon their restoration in some form or other. In comfort we become flabby.
2. Haste, the Characteristic American fever, is another great enemy. Patience is just as essential to accomplishment in the spiritual order as is energy. The craze for speed records is making us a nation of neurothenics, and is taking out of us absolutely the power of patience.
3. Procrastination, the twin sister of haste, kills spiritual ambition because it prevents the joy of accomplishment. It is an interesting fact that with all the time left on our hands by time-saving devices we probably accomplish much less than our fore-fathers did.
4. Diversion, sought to relieve the mental and physical effects of haste, is usually with us anything but a physical and mental tonic. We take twice as much diversion as we should for health, and some of the forms it assumes are extremely dangerous to health. Overdoses of tobacco, drink, jazz and movies keep the mind in a constant state of agitation, and give the nerves anything but the rest it needs; even travel, athletics and reading, unless properly governed, will tear down when they should build up.
5. Disorder, like procrastination, kills accomplishment. Mental slovenliness was put down by Adj. General McClain, as the most prominent vice of the college men who entered the army--- the state of mind that was satisfied with 70% approximation to correctness. Without order there is no perseverance.

(to be continued)

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6. Atr^ophy of the will, through lack of exercises. Anyone who goes through life acting always from impulse may never know that he has a will. He may do lots of good deeds, but if they are the result of environment and impulse, and not the deliberate acts of studied purpose, they will never form good habits, and can not bring perseverance.

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