

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

April 23, 1925.

Prayers.

Four students ask prayers for sick relatives, and two for special intentions. Norber Koehl underwent an operation Monday.

First Friday.

Start the month of May with an hour of adoration---offer it for your mother.

May Devotions.

Devotions begin Thursday night at 7:30, and continue on Wednesday nights thereafter.

Mother's Day Novena.

Mother's Day comes on May 10 this year. The novena begins May 1. The spiritual bouquet cards will be sold for the benefit of the Bengal Mission. Start your Novena on time or your mother will be the only mother in the neighborhood who can't be proud of her son.

Building a Solid Character. IV.

9. Prosperity.

Because of stagnation of mind the majority of us have to wait for affliction of some kind to bring us a realization of the power of religion, and we come to look upon religion as intended only for rainy days. Such souls are seldom great souls. Now and then you find a great penitent who has found God through adversity, and whose soul has risen to heights as lofty as the depths were profound; but most of the saints have thought well of God and of their salvation long before God tried them with adversity. If you want to see what prosperity can do in the way of killing perseverance, ask some wise old Catholic in your home town to tell you how many apostate Catholics there are among the prosperous inhabitants. Go to the root of the matter and you will make shocking discoveries. Mixed marriage will be blamed in some of the cases, but find whether prosperity--that is, health, wealth and friends--was not at the base of the marriage.

The remedy for prosperity is meditation on death and the vanity of earthly things.

10. The Power of Habit.

It takes considerable power of will to break a habit of a year's standing, and twenty-five times that power to break one of five years' standing. Habit working in the bone, which is another way of saying that it makes grooves in the brain. The physical power of habit must never be discounted in the business of salvation, and one must not be discouraged if his first or second or tenth or five-hundredth attempt to break a habit is unsuccessful; for, no matter how great the power of habit, the power of will is greater, if it can be found. The reason is that the will is a spiritual power, while habit is a physical power.

Complete confidence in God and a cheerful, humble, patient determination to win will overcome the power of habit, because it will give the attitude of mind that will beat out discouragement. Fr. James suggests the following natural helps:

1. Form as many good habits as possible, as early as possible;
2. Suffer no exception to occur until the good habit is firmly rooted;
3. Act promptly on your resolutions and on the good impulses towards such habits;
4. Launch yourself with as decided an initiative as possible;
5. Give effort some gratuitous exercise every day. Do hard things because they are hard.

John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,

Director of Education.