

Purity.

A Novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception began yesterday. Those who did not begin it should start tomorrow and carry over a day after the feast, ending it December ninth. The principal intention of the Novena is the grace of purity; the secondary intentions recommended are your own mothers and Notre Dame -- and for Notre Dame you are asked to pray that she may be successful in her endeavor to instill into young hearts pure ideals of manhood and womanhood. And during the nine days the Bulletin will publish, as in the past, considerations on the virtue of Purity and its opposing vice.

Temptation Rages Now.

The timeliness of the Novena is apparent. You may have heard in a general way that Holy Mother Church is wise in a natural as well as in a supernatural way, and that her regulations are quite in accordance with the laws of hygiene. You have probably heard that temptations to impurity depend to a certain extent upon one's physical complexion -- the state of his nerves, blood, etc. It may not have occurred to you that the Church wisely provides her remedies against temptation at the time when they are most needed.

Four times a year, at the change of the seasons, the Church calls upon us to abstain from meat and to perform other acts of mortification. These times are called Ember Days. Twice a year, at the beginning and end of winter, longer seasons of penance are imposed. There is some change in our physical makeup with each change of season; the more violent changes take place when the blood thickens to keep us warm in winter, and when it thins out too slowly in the spring. Advent and Lent remind us to place a strict guard on our senses and to use less meat, lest temptation get the best of us. Fasting and prayer are the means suggested by Our Lord as the universal remedies against temptation.

The Devil is Mad at Notre Dame.

Time and again the Bulletin has pointed out that where grace is active, the devil is more active. He doesn't have to work hard in places where his agents have full sway; the world does his work very well. But the very idea of Notre Dame enrages him. "The seed of the woman shall crush the serpent's head," was God's promise to Adam when He turned him away from Paradise. Mary alone, of all God's creatures born of Adam, was never under the sway of the devil through original sin, and through Mary was Redemption accomplished. Imagine then, how mightily Satan must blaspheme God when he finds here under the mantle of Mary twenty-five hundred young men who might be out using their brains to advance the cause of the Kingdom of Hell.

The devil is mad at Notre Dame again because God has chosen this place to build up another safeguard of youthful purity, devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Not only would he have you now, to debauch you and make sport of your noble ideals, but he would wreck you so completely that he would use you for a tool to spread his work. The higher you are, the lower you fall. Nothing would delight the devil more than an army of Notre Dame's daily communicants debauched, to debauch the rest of the world.

Will he have his way? He had his way again yesterday with the large crowd who missed Mass; he had his way with those who drank his liquor and danced and caroused with his girls during the holidays. God has given us four warnings in quick succession, but we have been deaf. "Today if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." Use Jimmie Powers' prayer during the Novena: Pray for those who haven't the sense to pray for themselves -- and save Notre Dame from the devil. (Five other intentions have been recommended by students for the Novena.)

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