

The Magnetic Virtues.

Humility..... Honesty..... Generosity..... They are magnets. They attract.

Humility, mother of all the virtues, is irresistibly attractive. You can't hold out against the humble man, for he gives you all you ask and offers more. He has knowledge, and he makes a stand for principle; he knows the way that leads to God, and he presents to it you as God's way. But he makes every allowance for your weakness, and he gives you credit for being such much better than you are, and having so much more good faith than you have, that you love to be with me. The proud man repels.

You can forgive an honest man anything. You can't help a liar; he won't let you. If a man lies to you your inclination is to let matters stand and drop him until he learns to venerate the truth. You appreciate the presence of an honest man and you feel that you can trust him with your reputation in his absence.

You have to love a bighearted man. "God so loved the world that He gave His Only-Begotten Son." Frank Gallagher's famous smile came out of his big heart; the boys on his tables in the dining hall say that he was always hopping about to find something else for them; in the Library also he distinguished himself by always doing more than his share. When a fellow is always willing, and never measures the cost of what he does for you, you simply have to love him. Stinginess disgusts.

Only one class of sinners did Our Blessed Lord excoriate -- the Pharisees. They were proud, deceitful, and small-minded.

The Majestic Virtues.

Wisdom and Fortitude are the majestic virtues.

The wise man commands attention. Wisdom consists in choosing the best means to attain an end sought, and there is something majestic about the man who remains unruffled by public opinion, by demagogues and charlatans. You value the friendship of a wise man as a precious thing, for wisdom weighs more than gold.

The brave man stands out even for the admiration of fools who despise wisdom, misinterpret humility, refuse to believe honesty, and take advantage of generosity. Fortitude, like wisdom, is a rare enough virtue; the combination of the two is rarer still.

Fools and weaklings (sinners, in other words) are God's little ones.

The Magnificent Virtue.

Chastity is the magnificent virtue. If we feel attracted by the humble man, the honest man, and the generous man, if we feel respect for the wise man and the brave man, we stand in awe of the chaste man. If a fool goes far enough to mock at a chaste man, it is only because his own conscience chides him for his weak surrender to animal desire; the awe that he feels in the presence of chastity makes him furious to build up a self-defense.

The Novena.

During these nine days we are preparing for the great feast of the Patroness of this school, the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God. We are asking during these days for a share in that magnificent virtue of which she was the greatest exemplar.

First Friday.

Confessions all day today in the Sorin chapel. Avoid the crowd tomorrow.