
The Octave Begins.

Is your father a Catholic? Your mother? Are they practical Catholics? Have any of your brothers or sisters married outside the Church? Are you courting a Catholic girl? Would any of your friends be that much better for the graces of the Sacraments?

The Church Unity Octave begins today, and you are asked to hand in the names of those for whom you want the grace of conversion. Seal the names in an envelope and leave them in the basket in the rear of the basement chapel. They will be placed on the altar as a reminder to Our Lord that you propose them as candidates for His Mercy. Receive Holy Communion each day, hear Mass if possible, and say the prayers of the Octave.

The Virgin Birth and the Immaculate Conception.

A letter from an off-campus student, written Dec. 15 and mailed Dec. 20, reached the office too late for consideration before the holidays, and then got lost in the shuffle. It wants an argument settled. It leads off with three mis-statements:

- "I. The Immaculate Conception was the birth of the Blessed Virgin without original sin.
- "II. Our Lord was born with original sin, as Man.
- "III. Our Blessed Mother is the only person born without original sin."

It then asks the following question: "Is the Immaculate Conception the divine conception of Our Lord or the conception of Our Blessed Mother?"

The answers will be given in order:

1. The Immaculate Conception was the preservation of the Blessed Virgin, from the first instant of her conception in the womb of her mother, from all stain of sin. She was saluted by the Angel Gabriel as "full of grace." Something would have been lacking to this plenitude of grace had she ever been under original sin.
2. It is manifest heresy to say that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity ever had sin on His soul. Sin affects the person, and although there were two natures in Christ, there was only one Person, the Divine Person, the Word.
3. The Blessed Virgin is the only human person conceived without original sin; the Prophet Jeremias and St. John the Baptist (and probably also St. Joseph) were born without original sin.
4. The sacred mystery of Our Lord's human origin without a human father is called the Virgin Birth. St. Luke gives the Blessed Virgin's account of this mystery, and St. Matthew gives St. Joseph's account. You will find pamphlets and books on the two mysteries, the Immaculate Conception and the Virgin Birth, at the pamphlet rack.

Mass Servers.

Father Murch will meet the servers in the church tomorrow evening after supper.

Green Slips and Devotion.

There has been a pronounced increase in attendance at Holy Communion since Sunday. The approach of examinations enkindles great fervor. Some of the boys are just now recalling promises they made in tight places in the November exams.