

IV. "Lead a Clean Life." - II.

Clean ideals. "The nicest divorce I ever had," is the characterization given on the front page by an American princess of the Paris decree that ended a month's debauch with an Egyptian. This sort of legalized prostitution kills everything fine in the heart; and if it goes on unchecked at its present rate it will kill everything fine in the American family. No social scourge is more deadly than the frenzied licentious woman who has the approval of society and the law; flee her poisonous breath.

The Catholic Church holds up to us the Blessed Virgin as the ideal of pure womanhood and St. Joseph as the ideal of manly chastity. And to prove that these models are possible of imitation she lays before us the long roll of saints, men and women, who consecrated their chastity to God. And to see that these models still have ardent imitators you have only to watch the long file of rugged, healthy young men approaching the Communion rail each morning. You love the fight you see in a strong, clean eye. "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God."

Clean companionship. Gold and silver, even diamonds, lose their lustre when exposed to poisonous fumes. Your soul is more precious than any of these, and no less susceptible to tarnish. Can your mind stay clean and pure in the midst of sordid discussions, filthy stories, foul philosophy, scenes of beastly degradation of the temple of God? Can your conscience keep its fine edge when it trifles with temptation? Can you ask God to preserve your soul free from stain when you rush headlong into danger? Can your ideals remain untarnished when the books and papers and magazines you read are written with the sole purpose of selling by their appeal to the basest human instincts. "Tell me with whom you go and I will tell you what you are."

The Vow of Chastity. "The greatest religious influence in my life has been the vow of chastity made at the age of twelve," wrote a student on his questionnaire five years ago. Nothing could do more to set off the Catholic ideal in the midst of worldly corruption. The effect on the maker of the vow would be stimulating and refreshing; the effect on the spiritual life of Notre Dame, if such a vow were made by half, or even a third or fourth of her students, would be beyond calculation.

All who practice the virtue might as well have the double merit of the vow. As said before, the vow should be made only for short periods at a time, and with your confessor's permission. It should include all thoughts, words, and actions contrary to purity; if made in marriage, it should include all infidelity to one's wife, in thought, word, or deed. What a guarantee of high ideals such a vow would bring to the marriage contract! What a pledge of God's blessing it would mean!

The Sacraments and Prayer. It was certainly the inspiration of the Holy Ghost that Pope Pius X opened the tabernacle for daily Communion when he did, for extraordinary means of grace are necessary to meet the extraordinary temptation of this licentious age. Only the state of grace and a right intention are necessary; hence even those whose struggle for purity meets with discouraging falls are not barred from the Holy Table. Prayer and the Sacraments will give purity; and if one is not satisfied with the progress he is making in his quest of this virtue he should see a priest to find where the defect lies.

Prayers.

James Coram is desperately ill, and there is little hope for his recovery. Jack Daley is also quite ill. Three other sick persons, two deceased, and three special intentions are recommended.

NOTE: 900 extra copies of these Bulletins will be available for distribution when the set of eight is completed.