

Religious Bulletin

January 3, 1930.

The Dirty Decade.

In a biting cartoon published a couple of years ago, John T. McCutcheon referred to the recently-departed Twenties as "The Dirty Decade." It was an apt characterization. To verify this, cast your eye over the following world records broken in the advance of devil worship:

1. Divorces. Never were so many homes shattered. Chicago during the past year reached an average of one every 55 minutes.
2. Birth control. Voluntarily childless homes have grown so common that at bridge parties a woman with more than two children can with impunity be referred to as "that fool."
3. Drunken women. There were always some, in certain circles, but the Dirty Decade went in for large-scale production in this nauseating line.
4. Women gamblers. The rolling bones are as old as Egypt, but it was only a Cleopatra here and there who had diamond-studded dice in other days.
5. Women bandits. The emancipation of women has gone very far. A woman arrested in a stick-up the other day had her husband and her two sons, aged sixteen and eighteen, in the car with her. She wielded the gun.
6. Vice rings, graft, and racketeering. Billions are now involved in them. In the olden days you had to be a Roman emperor to get away with theft and murder on so vast a scale.
7. Public obscenity. It is likely that no previous century has been the victim of so much filth as publishers have spewed forth in the past decade. The theatre has almost reached Greek decadence -- and reaches so many more.
8. Contempt for law. In frontier towns there were at least the Vigilantes to act as a sort of public conscience; now the public conscience is numb.
9. Agnosticism. This is the worst symptom of all: as long as people believe in God they can come back; when they forget Him, all is lost. More than 9000 Protestant churches were abandoned in the United States during the past few years; and you saw in a recent Bulletin that almost 50% of the ministers who answered a recent survey were unwilling to affirm the Divinity of Christ, while 13% of them were avowed atheists, not believing in a Personal God.

That's the decade in which you have grown up, in which you have been asked to form your ideals and prepare yourself for life! It's a wonder you are as good as you are.

The Remedy.

If every Catholic in the United States were to receive Holy Communion every day of the year, how long do you suppose this condition would last? What would be the effect in five years? Why don't you try it and find out? The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the church today, all day. Visit Our Lord and talk this over with Him.

PRAYERS: Vincent Turley's mother is very low; so is the father of Francis Drugan, a student here last year. Con Carey's father is in the hospital. Eight special intentions.