

Religious Bulletin

December 1, 1930

Our Concern This Week Is For Purity.

"Mother ~~most pure~~, Mother most chaste, Mother inviolate, Mother ~~undefiled~~....."

Our concern this week is for purity, and we ask it through the intercession of the purest creature of God's handiwork, "Notre Dame." We ask it of her to whom we say that "never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided." We ask it of her through nine days of prayer to her under the title of her most cherished privilege, the Immaculate Conception.

We have need to be concerned for purity. The history of the downfall of nations is the history of impurity, and our own nation can expect no better fate than Rome and Greece if it continues to follow in their path. The history of broken homes and broken hearts is the history of impurity; can you ask God's blessing on your own future happiness if you follow the example of your neighbors who flout His Law? The history of hell is the history of impurity, and if we would avoid adding to its scarlet pages we must use the means God has given us to be pure.

The battle for purity is a personal combat. No one can save your soul but yourself; no one else can make you pure. St. Paul found another law in his members, fighting against the spirit, and seeking to drag it down; and when he complained of the violence of temptation, he heard a Voice that said: "My grace is sufficient for thee." It is not a battle for cowards; strong character is developed by fighting this ancient battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil.

"Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted, Help of Christians.... Pray for us."

The child in its mother's arms feels safe. The sinner is a child who has strayed, whether through wilfulness or weakness; Mary is his refuge. When sickness or sorrow burden the shoulders of the grown man, he turns back again to his mother for consolation and encouragement; Mary is the comforter of those whose souls are sick and sad with sin. Help of Christians, she leads their souls to her Son to be cured and blessed. And no sinner needs her comforting refuge, her help, more than do the victims of impurity.

"Queen of angels,..... Queen of virgins,..... Queen of peace,..... pray for us."

What can you do for a fellow who won't even try? Mary has to her credit in heaven a long, long list of sinners who gave up before they came to know the power of her intercession. Pray to the Queen of peace for them this week, for peace is far from their hearts. She knows how to touch the hearts we cannot reach.

The Novena Begins Monday.

If you miss Holy Communion on Monday, the first day of the Novena, start Tuesday. But don't neglect it. You may not know the force of temptation against the holy virtue (God grant you may never know it), but there are many snares laid for the unwary, and what you miss now may come with redoubled force in later years when you are in the world without the opportunities for grace you have now. Put your heart into this Novena and you will never have cause to regret it.

Prayers.

Prof. Downey's sister died a few days ago. A brother of Jack Sageman underwent an operation last week. Two students ask prayers for deceased friends. Four special intentions.