

Religious Bulletin
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Your Future Is In Your Own Hands.

It is character that enables you to rise above environment. A good environment will help to give you a good character, by inclining your will to perform good acts and giving it facility in performance through practice. But good environment may not always be yours, and unless you learn now to perform good acts on principle, the chances are that your character will not resist bad environment when you leave here. And that you will meet with at least some bad environment is taken for granted; the world offers a surfeit of it.

An extraordinary measure of the grace of God is a part of your environment at Notre Dame, and it is the grace of God that is the greatest factor in your character-development. However, God cannot save your soul without your cooperation; neither can He strengthen your character if you resist His grace. The faults you tolerate here will in all likelihood be much larger faults when you leave here, and they will be the nucleus of greater and more harmful faults in the future.

You have opportunities here to practice the things that make strong character, because you have unfavorable elements in your environment which you are called upon to resist, as well as internal temptations to set aside. And among your companions you may find good and bad character, strong and weak character.

It is character, for instance, that causes a student to do the following things:

1. Practice daily Communion when his roommate neglects it;
2. Do his own work when he sees others copy;
3. Pay his railroad fare when others hide under the seats;
4. Give generously to the poor when others spend their money on themselves;
5. Tell the truth when a lie looks safe and attractive;
6. Go to Mass when others sleep;
7. Stop the foul mouth of a companion;
8. Study while others loaf;
9. Speak the charitable word while others backbite and slander.
10. Take the pledge and keep it while others make fools of themselves.

Yes, your future is in your own hands. No one is forcing you to use the many fine helps Notre Dame offers you for the development of a strong character; and while others suffer - your parents, most of all - if you resist these helps, no one will suffer more than yourself.

Joe Ford's Precocious Wickedness.

A neighbor of the Fords, who used to take the Ford kids and the Kelly kids (their cousins) out for a walk when they were little, tells that one of the little Kelly girls said to her one day: "Do you know what Joe Ford did? He went into church and went right into the pew without genuflecting! And he is four years old, and ought to know better..... But you know how boys are!" The biographers of saints who go into raptures over instances of infantile piety might have a hard time explaining this one away; but Joe made his First Holy Communion the next year, and filled in a good many genuflections in the years that followed.

Charity.

For the poor, \$8.90; for Bengal, \$6.00. The Bengal total is now \$894 this semester. PRAYERS: Stanley Richards has pneumonia. Ray Halon's father is ill. A deceased relative of Don Partlan and a deceased friend of Tom Ditchfield. A friend ill with cancer. Peter McIllogott, an alumnus, member of the New York Assembly for many years, died last Sunday. Eight special intentions.