

First Sunday :  
in Advent  
Do penance

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 25, 1932.

Immaculate Conception  
Novena for Purity  
begins Sunday

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Bad Reading Ruins Faith And Morals.

At their recent meeting in Washington, the Bishops of the United States adopted the following important resolution:

"Much has been said and written on the causes of the present depression. Undoubtedly those causes are in the main economic, but it would be blindness not to recognize the looseness and laxity of morals which both hastened the economic chaos of the world and now plays its part in extending laxity in public morals, loss of public decency, and consequently a lowering of the standards of citizenship.

"One of the most potent factors in this debasing of the individual and the public conscience is the increasing flood of immoral and unmoral books, periodicals, pamphlets, which are widely advertised throughout the country. Great metropolitan dailies, literary journals, carry laudatory advertisements of books that have always been known as obscene. Publishers repeatedly issue new books outdoing the old ones in obscenity. Public opinion has influenced the courts of the nation to such an extent that it is now almost impossible to have the most obscene of books debarred from the customs or from the mails.

"Literature has its uplifting, human mission. Wholesome, healthy reading promotes both entertainment and education. Talented men and women are today producing worthy literature, devoting themselves to it as one of the greatest of the arts. A practical guide to such literature may be found in the lists of the Cardinal Hayes Literature committee, published in our Catholic press.

"It is further undeniable that many writers, beggared of talent and of true literary gifts, are playing up the sexual, the sensational and the superficial, and that these books are exploited by many reviewers as literary productions. They speak of the flesh rather than of the mind.

"We call upon our own Catholic people, young and old, to maintain valiantly the standards of worthy, clean literature. We ask them to make it part of that crusade of Catholic Action, of which the Holy Father speaks. Catholic organizations can and should express publicly to daily newspapers, to magazines, their protest against this corrupt and corrupting reading and picture matter. Co-operation by committees of Catholic organizations with the local public library would be conducive of much good. Our people should not be misled by books written under the cloak of medical advice, instruction on matters of sex, many of which are indecent beyond expression.

"The corruption of private and public morals wears away more surely than any other agency the foundations of a nation. The publication and unobstructed distribution of indecent books and periodicals is, at the present time, one of the greatest menaces to our national well-being."

In other words, evil literature is a form of treason to country as well as to God. Set this down as your practical conclusion: whoever buys, reads, retains, or circulates obscene literature is an enemy of Christ and fosters the work of the Devil.

No Mass In The Church Tomorrow.

Only 187 attended last Saturday's Mass; use your hall chapels tomorrow.

PRAYERS: Deceased - The father of Jack Burns, '27; uncles of Paul Lesko and Francis T. McGuire; a relative of Joseph Bucci. Ill - the father of Bro. Isidore, C.S.C.; two friends of students. Five special intentions; two thanksgivings.

CHARITY: For the poor - \$5.00; \$5.00; \$1.00.