
Why The Novena Began Early.

Ordinarily you expect a Novena to end on the day preceding the feast for which it is a preparation. The present Novena for Purity, addressed to the Immaculate Conception, will end three days before the feast. Why? Because there are so many of you who are always late with everything, and who always begin their Novenas a day or two after the rest of us.

You May Begin Tomorrow.

The inveterate procrastinators, the week-enders who rest at Notre Dame between trips, and the hearsay Catholics who never read an announcement, may begin their Novena tomorrow and end it on the day before the feast. To make the Novena you should receive Holy Communion and recite the Litany of the Blessed Virgin daily. You might also add the prayer to St. Joseph for purity, which you will find at the Pamphlet Rack.

Why You Should Make the Novena.

The world is out to get you, and it will unless you are fortified with the strong grace of God. "As I knew that I could not otherwise be continent except God gave it, I went to the Lord, and besought Him." (Wisdom, 8:21) All virtue is assailed in these days of moral chaos, but against no virtue is there a more terrific onslaught than against purity. The struggle of the talented libertines to justify their sins has resulted in a flood of propaganda - through literature, -books, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers - through the movies, through lectures - even through sermons - all tending to saturate the mind with evil suggestions and encourage the will to plunge headlong into sin. And every soul they debauch is a potential enemy to your virtue.

Prayer and sacrifice will preserve this beautiful virtue; sacrifice and prayer will restore it if it is lost. Those who would regain it must remember that a pampered body cannot be controlled, that idleness leads to destruction, that "wine hath destroyed very many." Self-denial will buy back what is lost; Magdalene as well as Mary stood at the foot of the Cross; the chaste Jerome and the penitent Augustine are both Fathers of the Church. But Augustine and Magdalene did not regain their virtue simply by wishing it back.

"Noli Aemulari In Malignantibus."

"Be not envious of evildoers; nor envy them that work iniquity." Why not? "For they shall shortly wither away as grass, and as the green herbs shall quickly fall." The seeming prosperity of the wicked has ever stirred the curiosity of the ignorant. What David says of them (Ps. 36) is as true today as it was 3000 years ago. Unseemly curiosity has wrecked the health, the hopes, the lives of millions of boys who could have carried their baptismal innocence to their graves. Let such boys avoid evil company, "hedge about their ears with thorns," resist the taunts and blandishments of those who, having fallen, would, like Satan, drag all others down with them into the pit. The man who prospers in a career of sin is far worse off than the poor fellow who gets caught. Retribution awaits him - either in this life or in the next - and the longer it is delayed in coming the worse it will be. "Noli aemulari."

Prayers.

Professor Downey is in critical condition following an operation last week. James Manion is quite ill; he has been taken home after five weeks in the hospital. Frank Iuen, '32, and Wm. Casazza ask prayers for their fathers, and Harold Druecker and Maurice Garland for their mothers - all of them ill. Two deceased relatives of Philip Walker are recommended to your prayers. Six special intentions.