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Scandal In Speech.

In "A Modern Messenger of Purity," Father Alber Dolan, the famous Carmelite preacher who did so much to propagate devotion to the Little Flower, lays down the following considerations on scandal that may come from impure speech:

"As for telling immodest stories, there is a rule, namely, never repeat them. Why? There are many solid reasons, some more important than others. I shall give the weakest first and the strongest last.

"(a) These conversations infallibly coarsen one, at least a little.

"(b) You may scandalize non-Catholics. They do not know that your behavior is better than your talk and they say: 'That man is a Catholic and he goes to confession and yet he tells stories like that. If he's not a hypocrite, Catholics must be a pretty lax lot.' Isn't that enough to induce any loyal Catholic to resolve to have done once and for all with these stories? Don't let anyone leave your company thinking more cheaply of Catholics.

"(c) You may cause others to sin. Others may be far more inflammable than you are. In your audience may be a man who is finding self-control very difficult or who is trying to reform. Your story may upset things, especially if you are a person of any importance, and particularly if you are a Catholic of some prominence in Catholic activity. What you say may not matter to you, but may be just what is needed to make it impossible for another to hold out much longer. I know of one case where a man was absolutely appalled, almost physically sick, when I told him that he was the one who (without guessing) had told a story that to my knowledge led a hitherto innocent boy to his first sin."

Other Sins of Scandal.

Father Dolan's mention of scandal to non-Catholics should cause serious reflection during the Church Unity Octave. You may be surprised to learn at the Last Judgment how many well-intentioned non-Catholics you have kept out of the Church. Many a non-Catholic student, for instance, has said: "I would like to be a Catholic when I see some of these fellows around here - the best boys I ever saw. But I wouldn't want to be a hypocrite, like some of the others, so I don't think I'll do anything about it yet." Perhaps he comes in later; perhaps he doesn't. If he doesn't, those who kept him out can save their excuses for the Last Judgment. Here are a few cases:

A became a Catholic a few months since. Five years ago he was ready to take instructions, when one day he reminded a Catholic student in Lyons Hall that it was Friday. The Catholic replied: "Meat tastes as good to me on Friday as any other day," and he finished his sandwich. It set that boy back five years.

B used to get his Catholic fellow-students into arguments in defense of their faith, and when the argument got strong enough he would say: "Well, if I believed what you say you believe, I wouldn't act as you do." B is still an agnostic.

C stated: "I go to prayers more faithfully than any Catholic student I know; I don't use the language they use, and I certainly wouldn't do the things some of them say they do. Why should I be a Catholic?" He is still a non-Catholic.

PRAYERS: Deceased - Ernest Duncan, '98; a cousin of J.J. Hayes; an uncle of Gerard Hergardt (a recent convert - from last year's Church Unity Octave). Ill - Jack Delaney's mother; Anthony Marra's grandmother; a friend (operation); another friend. Eight special intentions; 3 thanksgivings (two returns from the Depression Novena).