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Sincerity.

"When you speak of some one as sincere you likely have in mind a person who is upright, truthful; plainspoken, without gruffness or abruptness; one whose word is his mind, his act the expression of his thinking.

"Sincerity, like every other good quality, is rarely found without alloy. Thus your charity may be credulous, surrendering, pitying, when a mixture of prudence, strength, and a sense of justice would make it more serviceable. Every virtue may overflow its banks to become fanaticism or foolishness. Your justice may become hardness, your kindness softness, your gentleness cringing, your truthfulness brazenness. Even your humility may overflow restraining banks and become a pose.

"Sincerity is real. It does not pretend in the more serious concerns of life. It speaks an unadulterated language that springs from an unadulterated source. Its yes is yes, its no, no. There are indeed exceptions, when the 'yes' or the 'no' might depress or injure; in which case the withholding is charity or mercy, not insincerity.

"Sincerity, however, must not retreat before duty. If a man come to a physician with a suffering interior from over indulgence in food or drink, the physician owes it to his patient to indicate causes and to express the medical law. He may express the law gently, but he must express it. If a young lady come to you with some verses that are more pious than poetical, do not--since you know better--tell her to send it to a magazine, that it is the stuff of poetry.

"If some one buttonhole you with a grievance against the boss of the works, or the boss' first assistant, do not let your stream of conversation flow down with his stream of conversation. Do not assume that the boss is wrong, the complainant right. There are two sides to every question, just as there are two sides to every piece of linoleum. We turn the most presentable side up.

"People who try to be sincere need not be brusque or offensive. You can disagree with a man without hitting him with a noun of one syllable. You need not thrust yourself before the torrent of a man's wrath; but neither should you swell the torrent by insincere agreement with his shouts.

"Our Saviour tolerated sinners; sinners who committed gross sins. He forgave them and brought them into His kingdom. He was severe on insincerity. The Pharisees who came to Him with the tribute coin, veiling their designs with flattery, were exposed and reprimanded. Judas, who blamed Magdalen for waste at the supper, gave almsgiving, not his own greed, as the motive for his protest. He was insincere."

The foregoing paragraphs are from The Ave Maria, world-famous Catholic magazine that reaches more than 100,000 readers every week. It is published here at Notre Dame to keep alive in Catholic homes the spirit of Our Lady that pervades the campus. If you are interested you can find copies of the Ave Maria in the Library.

Mercy.

If you expect to be treated mercifully by God, you must, according to Christ, show mercy to others--"Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." Are you slighting the Poor Souls this month of November? According to the Council of Trent, those in Purgatory are helped especially by the Sacrifice of the Altar, in which the priest offers officially to God the blood of the Saviour as ransom for the suffering souls. It is easy to hear Mass daily at Notre Dame--easy to go daily to Holy Communion. Don't miss the opportunity of showing mercy to the Poor Souls and of purchasing mercy for yourself.