

Gaps for Wed., May 8:  
9:30-10:30(0); 12-12:30(0);  
1:00-2:30; 3:00-3:30;  
4:00-4:30; 6:00-6:30(0).

University of Notre Dame  
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Youth and Chastity--II.

Imagination is the marvellous ability of the mind to take pictures of everything we see and experience, to combine and shuffle them and recast them in countless variations, leaving it to the reason and intellect to reach into this maze of mental pictures and reduce them to order.

Bacilli of Immorality.

Imagination, and through it, your mind, is easily infected by the bacilli of immorality spread and communicated by licentious and unprincipled people, not only in a coarse and glaring form, but also in the subtler disguises of books, movies, amusements, etc. Against these bacilli, this epidemic of immorality, our main defence must be the same as that employed against the deadliest smallpox or cholera--cleanliness.

Where cholera breaks out, posters appear immediately everywhere warning the populace to exercise the greatest care about personal cleanliness, to use disinfectants, and be careful in the selection and handling of food. In the same manner, in the soul of every youth I should like to hang up posters in flaming letters, the rules of moral purity: "Young man, beware of the bacilli which spread immorality!" They are present everywhere.

An invading army can be held up by trenches and arms; swirling floods can be controlled by throwing up dikes against them; but the epidemic of immorality is stronger than armies and floods--the only defence against it is purity.

"Yes, I must take care. But don't you realize what a topsy-turvy world we live in nowadays?"--not a few sincere young people may remark. "How can I take care when I am surrounded by a sea of temptations, and every step only plunges me into new difficulties?"

The justness of this terrible indictment characterizes similar complaints of many high-minded young men against the sinful life of our days. The accusations are just. Nevertheless, you must remain pure! Amongst all the countless opportunities for sinning? Yes!

"But when there is so much indocency in movies, so much frivolity displayed on the stage!" Who forces you to attend, or to remain at, such performances? "But when so many immodest displays glare at me from show windows and advertisements!" Who forces you to look at them?

"But when there are such loads of smutty wisecracks lished up in vaudeville, over the radio!" Who forces you to go there, to listen to them? "But when even friends today are not so careful of all this filth!" Why associate with such fellows?

Modern ways of life have drifted far away from the natural life. The movies, exciting readings, dances, much sitting indoors and little physical exertion, spicy, starchy food, rouse unruly desires in the softened and perpered body much earlier and stronger than in the lad who is choosy and watchful, who does a good measure of physical work and lives a simpler and more natural life.

The student especially has to be regular about his physical exercise; he has to watch and pray constantly against dangerous occasions if he is to stand his ground in the battle for purity.

PRAYERS: Deceased, aunt of Leo (Alumni) and Clement (Freshman) McFarlane; grandmother of Pat Malloy. Ill, father of Jack Butler; grandmother of John Boland. 6 sp. ints.