

Gaps for Fri., May 17:
7:30-8:00; 9:30-10:00;
1:30-2; 2:00-2:30 (0).

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 16, 1935

Youth and Chastity--V.

Have you seen children with abnormally bulky heads, crooked spines, their members encased in steel supports, dragging themselves along like little Jobs, patiently and silently bearing their sorrows? People turn after them and say: "Poor child, it has the rickets!"

Alas, if we had but Aladdin's lamp to look into men's souls, how we would exclaim step by step, "Poor rickety souls!"

Spiritual Rickets.

These are souls whom a thousand comforts of civilization as well as indolence rooted in their nature have made soft, jellylike; souls who abhor any exertion, whose backs shiver at the mention of self-control, self-denial. They grow up strong and well, educate their minds with care; their wills, however,--which they shall need at every step in life--remain frail, stunted, pithless and useless.

Physical rickets, thank God, is a comparatively rare disease among children; spiritual rickets, however, is born with us, and everyone must cure himself, discipline himself out of it.

A strong will is slumbering within everyone of us, but we have to develop it by steadfast, conscious, daily training. The sooner you begin this training of the will, the better, for after a while it becomes unbending like a full-grown tree. Few normal men want to fall into sin. Many fall. Why? Because their will is weak, they have not strength to protect themselves in dangerous occasions; they can't cooperate with God's help proffered through the Mass, the Sacraments, and prayer.

"Die and Rise."

One of the most efficacious aids in forming the will is self-denial. Ugh! many a fellow exclaims. That word savors of the middle ages! Today we live in the hour of "life assertion", of "intensification," of "vitalization." Today people want to enjoy life, not curtail it, subtract from it or deny it!

What is self-denial but a means of acquiring will power which is absolutely necessary to attain nobility of character? Self-denial does not mean the subjugation of nature, nor the use of force against natural faculties; it means the use of force against inordinate, excessive desires which endanger the reasonable use of our faculties.

All of us have abundant faults; all stand in need of self-denial. What becomes of him who lacks self-control when passions rage within him? Self-denial enables us to be tolerant, patient with ourselves and with our fellow beings. It is evident that society could not function if this were lacking. Without self-denial sublime ideals, personality, loftiness of character, culture, civilization, progress could not be attained.

Self-denial is a violence used against the violence of our wicked propensities. It is not the end but a means by which we attain to victory, to an intensified, vitalized rational life. This is the meaning of Goethe's famous words: "Die and Rise!"

Bishop's Novena.

Starts tomorrow morning, ends the morning of the 25th. The bishop will come personally to celebrate his anniversary here on the campus. Your Spiritual Bouquet will be his chief cause for rejoicing. Be generous to him!

PRAYERS: Deceased, Mother Myra, S.C.C., Maria Immaculate Convent, Wilmette, Ill. Ill, mother of Mr. Riordan; Miss Virginia Corcoran; mother of Jack Murphy; Jim Bookwalter, appendectomy; Paul Schrenker; Ed Dunn; Charley Rodierne. Seven special intentions.