

University of Notre Dame
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Basis No. 1 Of A Happy Marriage--Lead A Clean Life Now.

You are considerate enough of the welfare of your children to want to give them the purest mother in God's creation, a mother who by work and example can train them to piety and to goodness. What of their father? Could you ask a pure, wholesome girl to entrust her innocence to the keeping of a weakling? Is it fair to ask her to enter into lifelong association with an animal whose reason is swept aside by the first breath of passion?

In giving the martyrs fortitude, chastity overcame Rome. And chastity has lost none of its force to strengthen the modern arm of character. What field of battle won, what triumph can compare in joy with victory won over self! When the soul comes clean, with the help of God, from an assault against chastity, it is conscious of a power that can say NO with a force that the whole world, if sometimes unwillingly, understands and fears.

There are numerous hygienic reasons for purity. Let us not stifle you with too many of them. Syphilis kills more people annually in the United States than any other disease, although in the death notice it is usually listed under some other head. And, hard as syphilis is on the health and happiness of parents, innocent children suffer from it even worse. Fournier's study of 72 syphilitic fathers is typical: 70 healthy mothers gave birth to 307 children--110 stillborn, 166 syphilitic, and 31 healthy. One hundred percent of prostitutes are diseased. So are a large proportion of wives and girls who are "easy-going." The ONLY sure precaution against venereal disease is continence. Every other precaution has been known to fail.

1. Prayer and the Sacraments. It was certainly by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost that Pope Pius X opened the tabernacle for daily Communion, for extraordinary means of grace are necessary to meet the extraordinary temptations of this licentious age. Only the state of grace and a right intention are necessary to receive Holy Communion worthily; hence even those who are yet struggling for purity are not barred from the Holy Table. In addition to Holy Communion, you have at Notre Dame the advantage of daily adoration: close to God you can pour out your heart to Him in prayer as you can nowhere else. If one is not satisfied with the progress he is making in his quest of this virtue he should ask his confessor just where the defect lies.

2. Our Lady and St. Joseph. The Catholic Church holds up to us the Blessed Virgin as the ideal of pure womanhood and St. Joseph as the ideal of manly chastity. And to prove that these models are possible of imitation she lays before us the long roll of saints, men and women, who consecrated their chastity to God. To see that these models still have ardent imitators you have only to watch the file of rugged, healthy young men approaching the Communion rail every morning. Abundant examples there are all about you of the clean of heart who will one day see God.

3. Good Companionship. Gold and silver, even diamonds, lose their lustre when exposed to poisonous fumes. Your soul is more precious than any of these, and no less susceptible to tarnish. Can your mind stay clean and pure in the midst of sordid discussions, filthy stories, foul philosophy, scenes of beastly degradation of the temple of God? Can you ask God to preserve your soul free from the stain when you rush headlong into danger? Can your ideals remain untarnished when the books and papers and magazines you read are written with the sole purpose of selling by their appeal to a bestial human instinct?

"As I knew that I could not otherwise be continent, except God gave it, and this also was a point of wisdom, to know whose gift it was: I went to the Lord, and besought Him, and said with my whole heart: God of my fathers, and Lord of mercy....give me wisdom, that sitteth by Thy throne, and cast me not off from among Thy children."

FRATERS: (deceased) Sister Agnesia, C.S.C.; father of Louis Lohlof, '32. 111, Father Collentine; friend of Matt Goring (Cav) and Bob Rick (Bad); Esther Carrico (apenn-destomy); grandmother of Ed Tracey (Carr).