

Mass Tuesday, 7:20 for  
sister of Francis, John,  
and Matt Payne.....

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 29, 1937.

.....request of Cleveland  
Club.....

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Novena Of The Year For Chastity.

The world which admires chastity in women stands in positive awe before the power that chastity brings to the character of a man. Sometimes, it is true, the skeptical world scoffs at manly chastity, denies the possibility of its existence. But in that very denial the world pays its most humble and eloquent tribute to the firmness and power and genuineness of the life of the chaste man.

At the break of the Christian era it was chastity that overcame pagan Rome, chastity that gave to the martyrs that fortitude of which they are the most excellent exemplars in the entire history of the world.

And chastity has lost none of its power today. It is the force that must strengthen the character which will overcome the rampant paganism of our times.

What field of battle or triumph of arms can compare in honor and joy with victory won over self? When the soul comes clean with the grace of God from assaults against chastity, it is conscious of a power that can say NO with a force that the world cowers before in reverence and fear.

From the altar yesterday came the important announcement that the Novena for Purity in honor of the Immaculate Conception would begin this morning and end on December 7. If for any reason you did not start this morning, begin tomorrow morning and end your Novena a day later, on December 8, morning of the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

During the Novena, check up on these key-points: I. Your Ideals. See that they are high and Christian. Don't draw them from pagan movies, from pagan picture magazines, and newspapers, unless you want to live like a pagan. Turn to the words of Christ Himself, "Blessed are the clean of heart for they shall see God." Try to interpret Christ's words as Mary Immaculate and the saints--they are your working models--interpreted them in their daily lives.

II. Your 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 your conscience keep its fine edge when it trifles with temptation? Can you ask God to preserve your soul free from 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 the basest human instincts? "Tell me with whom you go and I will tell you what you are."

III. Your use of the Sacraments, and prayer. It was certainly by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost that Pope Pius X opened the tabernacle for daily Communion when he did, 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; hence even those whose struggle for purity meets with discouraging falls are not barred from the Holy Table. In addition to Holy Communion, you have at Notre Dame the advantage of daily opportunities for Mass, where your own weak prayers and cowardly sacrifices you can smuggle in to the perfect prayer and sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. Learn here at Notre Dame to go frequently before the Blessed Sacrament in the quiet of the afternoon or evening, and there alone pour out your heart to Him and ask His help. Make this Novena for Purity with your whole mind and heart.

PRAYERS: (deceased) brother-in-law of Fr. Kearney; uncle of Bob Ervin (Walsh); uncle of Jerry Saegert (Bad); James Helmer, cousin of Charles Terry (Alumni). Ill, Margaret Seegar; Father Parsons; mother of Coleman Heiles (Zahn); father of Pete Johnen ('37); cousin of Greg Kelly (Walsh); mother of William Ricke (Off-Campus); father of William Wade (Mor); Gene O'Brien (Sor); Dan Harly (Cyr); Francis Mastriana (Dillon).