

Hear Bishop Kelly at 8 to-
night in the Auditorium of
the Engineering Building.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 16, 1937.

Off-Campus students: pick
up your Spiritual Bouquet
Cards at Prefect of Relig-
ion's offices.

The New Strategy.

In certain large cities (Chicago for one) a diabolical campaign is going on to get immoral pictures and articles into the hands of Catholic high school students. Frankly, Catholic leaders are considerably alarmed at the scale and persistence of the onslaught, because, apparently, some sinister organized interest is pursuing this policy:

Don't talk directly to Catholic youth against Catholic doctrine or moral teaching. Here and there you may get results, but in general you'll arouse furious opposition. Soften up young Catholics through their weaknesses and passions. Break down the ideals and safeguards which protect and inspire their chastity and you'll soon cut them off from their church. That's the way to ruin Catholicism.

No one has mapped out the program in so many words, but that's the evident strategy. Is there danger in it? You judge.

Catholic priests have known for generations that once an individual becomes gross in matters of the difficult commandment, once such a Catholic loses the desire and the hope to reform himself, he begins to show weaknesses in faith. As his grossness increases his faith continues to weaken in almost corresponding degrees. That much is known.

And this, too, is known: the first natural sine qua non condition of a chaste life is wholesome environment. Create an immoral environment, attract people into it frequently under the guise of art, of education, of entertainment, and you have them. No normal man can often feed sex curiosity through print or picture however artistic, through gigantic silvery presentations of sexual irregularities, and remain pure. It can't be done. At a single concession of the will, unchastity takes temporary possession of the mind and heart and begins, by weakening ideals and eliminating motives and depleting moral forces, to make its possession lasting and secure. A strong tendency is introduced to repeat indulgence. And such acts of indulgence repeated cause a sort of immoral servitude, a helplessness, a weakness, a hopelessness in the face of ordinary desire.

Not only that, but the servitude sets up a fierce and unhappy conflict within the individual between the teachings of his Faith and his own moral practices, between his creed and his code. Strongly inclined he will grow to give up his faith, or to break his sexual servitude. Now the means of conversion, of self-reformation in this case are arduous, even the enemies of chastity hope, too arduous for the average secretive young man.

The call to the Catholic leader of today is vigilance and fight, vigilance in secret and in public against every approach to lust, and, above all, the most industrious development of the life of grace through the intelligent daily offering of the Mass, through frequent reception of Holy Communion, through earnest prayer and self-discipline. Keep close to God these days, for He Himself has said, "Without Me you can do nothing." If you ever fall into any form of unchastity, get back immediately through a good confession to the state of grace. Then with St. Paul you may courageously say, "I can do all things in Him Who strengtheneth me."

You are a leader. Against the flannel mouth and the refined seducer, fight with all your strength. Let your thoughts, your talk, your actions constitute a leadership that noble men and women will follow because innately they are attracted to the good. Loyally in this matter of chastity stand for the cause of Christ and of the Lady to whom sacredly and irrevocably your young life has been pledged.

PRAYERS: (deceased) brother of Fr. Jas. Kline C.S.C.; John Diskon. Ill, Edward Mahon (Chem. Bldg); aunt of Harold Bowler (Mor). Two special intentions.