

Father Tom Kelly of Lyons thanks you all for your prayers and good wishes.....

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LOST: a pair of silver beads; a pair of black beads (without the corpus).....

"Take Up And Read; Take Up And Read."

Why all the interest in reading these last few nights? Well, reading makes people think-- that is, if it's good reading. Many of you know the story of St. Augustine and, in particular the "reading incident" which fastened him once for all to Christ.

He was sobbing. When would he put sin away and turn to God? It was always tomorrow but never today. When would the hour come when he would deliver himself from all uncleanness? A thousand times he made up his mind to do better. Then he fell again.

As he pondered the question, "weeping in the most bitter contrition" of his heart, he heard a voice, as it were of a boy or girl, "chanting and oft repeating, 'Take up and read; take up and read.'" Let his "Confessions" tell you what happened then:

Instantly, my countenance altered, I began to think most intently, whether children were wont in any kind of play to sing such words; nor could I remember ever to have heard the like. So checking the torrent of my tears, I arose; interpreting it to be no other than a command from God, to open the book, and read the first chapter I should find. For I had heard of Antony, that coming in during the reading of the Gospel, he received the admonition, as if what was being read, was spoken to him: GO SELL WHAT THOU HAST, AND GIVE TO THE POOR; AND THOU SHALT HAVE TREASURE IN HEAVEN, AND COME FOLLOW ME. And by such oracle he was forthwith converted to Thee.

Eagerly then I returned to the place where Alypius was sitting; for there had I laid the volume of the Apostle, when I arose thence. I seized, opened, and in silence read that section, on which my eyes first fell: NOT IN RIOTING AND DRUNKENNESS, NOT IN CHAMBERING AND WANTONNESS, NOT IN STRIFE AND ENVYING; BUT PUT YE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND MAKE NOT PROVISION FOR THE FLESH, IN CONCUPISCENCE. No further would I read; nor needed I: for instantly at the end of this sentence, by a light as it were of serenity infused into my heart, all the darkness of doubt vanished away.

He marked his place in the book and sought out Alypius. They discussed the passage. And God's grace did the rest. They make up their mind sin is ended. Never again. In joy they go to Monica, prayerful mother of Augustine. She leaps for joy and blesses the Lord, "Who art able to do above that which we ask or think."

You Are No Different.

All of you need the stimulus of good reading, yes of spiritual reading; for you have more than eyes-- you have spiritual souls. And all of you, because of inherited weakness and your own actual sins, can stand improvement, perhaps (like Augustine) stand in need of conversion from sin.

So, read. Look over the books especially provided for you and the purpose of making you better Christians. You will find them on the shelves of the Cavanaugh, Howard, and Dillon Libraries. Among other books you will find St. Augustine's "Confessions."

As to Newman, Dawson, Guardini and Belloc, they are also at your command. You may have, for the asking, "The Church and the Catholic," "The Spirit of the Liturgy," and "Conscience," all by Romano Guardini. Or, "Enquiries into Religion and Culture," "The Modern Dilemma," and "Religion and the Modern State," -- others, too-- by Dawson. From Belloc you may choose "The Crusades," "Richelieu," "Cranmer," and, again, other titles. Newman complete in the Main Library. *** "Take up and read."

PRAYERS: correcting an error, (deceased) Mother Tabitha, not Mother Eudoxia, of the Ancilla Domini Sisters; friend of Joe O'Connell (St. Eds.). Ill, father of Walt Wuebbold (Dil.); wife of E.L. Keating '24; sister of Jack Hagan (Erc.); Sr. Catherine (Donaldson, Ind.); (seriously) Fr. Dominic Cannon C.S.C.; Fr. Leonard C.S.C.; Fr. Leo Phillips CSV.