

OFFICE: Christmas Novena
for Parents begins this
Saturday. Read last two
lines of tonight's Bulletin.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 5, 1939

If you neglected Novena
for Chastity in honor of
Mary Immaculate at least
give her Wed-Thurs-Fri!

Discouragement.

Discouragement is one of the most effective weapons of the devil, and there is a strange paradox in its potency with college men.

Youth is buoyant and hopeful, and forgets readily enough; college men are normally courageous enough and like a good fight; Catholic college men are trained in the supernatural virtue of hope, and have no end of experience with the Mercy of God-- and yet they fall for this age-old trick of Satan, and are prone to give up the fight when they fall.

It works this way: A young man with high ideals encounters a situation that proves too much for him and falls into sin. The higher his ideals, the more he hates himself for his weakness. If the devil can discourage him he has him in his power. If he calls himself a "big bum" and believes it, he will not fight as he knows he should.

The remorse that follows sin is nature's rebellion against it; it is not in itself supernatural, and it may even crowd out supernatural sorrow (for which it is often mistaken).

Remorse may be as extravagant as sin itself, and may do as much harm to the soul: in the case of Judas it was the final impelling motive to despair.

True sorrow for sin, based on a supernatural motive, has no trace of discouragement in it: it is based on hope, the "hope to obtain pardon for sins, the increase of grace, and life everlasting."

Spiritual self-doctoring generally prescribes large doses of discouragement; were it not for the buoyancy of youth it would lead to despair. The wise man goes to a physician when he gets sick.

O, Mary, Conceived Without Sin,
Pray For Us
Who Have Recourse To Thee!

One of the great sources of courage for a Catholic college man who is given to discouragement is the Holy Mother of God.

When one understands the meaning of the Immaculate Conception, it is easy to see why this should be so.

The devil never had the slightest power over Mary. Her faculties never suffered the upset of original sin. Her understanding, her faith, her hope, her love were never impaired. Though she suffered keenly, especially at the foot of the Cross, no discouragement crept into her heart. She did not swoon away. As Christ died, she stood.

It is because Mary is so strong that you have been making your Novena to her to gain strength in your daily struggle for Christian chastity. As long as you hold on to Mary's hand, as long as you visit the Grotto here while you have the chance, you are certain of ultimate victory. She will lead you to CHRIST, the source of her strength. She will show you that MASS AND COMMUNION EVERY DAY are the best antidote for discouragement.

Confessions tonight for all who are in any way spiritually depressed. The kind, encouraging word of the priest oftentimes is the starting point of PERMANENT VICTORY. DILLON, 6:20 to 10; HOWARD and CAVANAUGH, 7:30 to 10; BASEMENT, 6:20 to 7:00.

PRAYERS: (Deceased) father of Joe Rizzi '39; cousin of Fr. Tim Murphy, CSC; uncle of Jack Hennessey (Dil); (Ill) Ray Diver '25; nephew of Ralph Mazar (CC); one spec. intrn. THE CHRISTMAS NOVENA FOR PARENTS, PRIVILEGED WITH ADORATION, STARTS SATURDAY. TONIGHT OR TOMORROW NIGHT, WHEN THE CANVASSER APPROACHES YOU, SIGN UP YOUR PERIODS GENEROUSLY.