

The Pure of Heart.

(From Fr. Lord's pamphlet of that name)

"Great heavens, what a power! The power to call into existence God's children! God, you know, might have created human beings as He created Adam, out of the slime of the earth. Instead, He gave men and women a share in His creative power. They are the fathers and mothers of the human race, cooperators with God Himself in the making of their children...

"And that power, you know, is bound up absolutely with a thing called by the name that is bandied about so cheaply -- sex. It is sex. Oh, it's only when sex is abused, turned from its tremendous purpose, used, not like the creative power of God, but like the blind and selfish instinct of beasts, that it is cheap or common or vulgar....

"This queer, twisted modern world of ours doesn't see it that way....When faith goes, men are just more or less beautiful, developed, trained, parlor-broke animals, that's all. They are just one step ahead of the ape and one jump away from the grave. They are animals, with the importance of animals and with a life that starts from nothing and goes straight for the darkness of a tomb...So they are not important, life is not important, children are not much more important than other baby animals, and the power that generates life and brings children into the world really isn't precious, either.

"So, if it were not that sex is associated with pleasure, the modern pagan world would simply refuse to use it. In fact, you've read enough to see that these moderns are trying to keep the pleasure and eliminate the creative power of sex. They want the pleasure without the purpose....

"Men and women will tell you funny stories about sex, and others will roar with laughter over them. It ought to make your blood run cold, this treating as a joke the thing that brings little children into the world, the thing but for which you wouldn't exist today. Men will write clever books to prove that sins against sex aren't sins at all. This flinging away of a precious power, this waste and squandering and spoiling and soiling of it, isn't wrong? Then what, in God's name, is wrong? It's wrong to tamper with truth, to squander money, to play with someone's good name, but not sin to tamper with life, squander God's communicated power, cheapen love?....

"God the Father chose the universe for His dwelling; God the Son chose the tabernacles on our altars; and God the Holy Ghost chose the bodies of human beings. 'Know you not,' St. Paul said, 'that you are the temple of the Holy Ghost, who is in you, whom you have from God?' That is positively breath-taking, isn't it? God the Father in the tremendous temple of the universe; God the Son in the mighty cathedrals of the world; God the Holy Ghost in the living temples of our bodies. That makes our bodies positively holy things, holy as a church is holy, or a chalice, or a tabernacle....

"But St. Paul goes a great deal further than that. He was thinking, of course, of Holy Communion and its intimate union of our bodies with the body of Christ when he said, 'Know you not that your bodies are the members of Christ?' Through Holy Communion we become one body with Jesus Christ. St. Paul hurries on, with a fearful shudder as he thinks of the sins of impurity. 'Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them the members of a harlot? God forbid.' He sees, as it were, the impure sinner taking the sweet body of Christ, which has become united with his own body in Holy Communion, and bringing it into intimate contact with an impure woman. No wonder St. Paul shuddered. It is a terrible thought, isn't it?"

The Novena for Purity to the Immaculate Conception begins tomorrow morning. It consists of daily Mass and Communion and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin. Get set tonight.

Dr. Haas still in critical condition. Needs prayers. Also Joe Wallace (Car.), who was operated on last night, appendectomy.