

— — —

How Much Are You Worth?

Last Wednesday's Bulletin regarding the unwed West Coast college girl who murdered her two babies was written in a hurry, (as many Bulletins are). With more time and space we would have added that the girl after pleading guilty was placed on probation and in the custody of her mother, with mother and daughter saying tearfully, "We are wiser now." Yes, but at what a terrible cost to the girl, to the mother, to God especially.

With more time and space we would have added also that:

1. We did not condemn the poor girl. As a student 20 years ago, we hope we imbibed some of the Christian tolerance and understanding of the late Father John Cavanaugh, C.S.C. In a memorable class lecture, he commented on the current Hollywood scandal of that day which, incidentally, shocked the country: "Don't be hard on them, boys," he counseled, "rather you should pity them. They haven't the truth, the guidance, the helps you have. Take those away, maybe you'd be worse. Hate the sin, yes, but never the sinner, especially if he doesn't know any better. That's the real Catholic attitude, the attitude Christ wants you to have." And you can't really condemn a poor college kid if her professors, — to whom she should be able to look for wisdom, — encourage such a degradation and cheapening of sex with all its obvious resultant moral and physical tragedies.
2. We didn't wish to imply that only Catholic youth were living up to God's law regarding purity. We could have added that most of the non-Catholics that we know personally on the campus live the finest of lives and put to shame some reputedly Catholic students, especially in certain externals regarding purity, conversation for example. We could have added that fact, but many of you knew it already without our telling you so.
3. The secret, however, why so many Catholic boys and girls are succeeding after a struggle — and it is a struggle for most — the secret is probably that given by Cardinal Newman in his "Discourses to Mixed Congregations". Cardinal Newman makes it more than a secret, he makes it a boast, saying in an unexcelled manner: "It is the boast of the Catholic religion that it has the gift of making the young heart chaste; and why is this, but that it gives us Jesus for our food and Mary for our nursing Mother?"

To achieve purity, to regard sex with the reverence and dignity that it deserves is difficult even for the Catholic youth, boy or girl, even when guided and instructed properly, even when given "Jesus as our food and Mary for our nursing Mother". Even with all these aids, purity is still difficult, costly to achieve and therefore that much more enviable and worthwhile. But when youth is denied Mary and that Divine food, and in addition is fed a poisonous mental diet — then, of course, the effect is deadly, in this case, two deaths.

The educators who deny or ignore the soul in man treat man as if he were just an animal and a funny and a cheap one at that, which he is if he hasn't a soul.

If they were a little bit humble, they would be a little bit wise and would regard the evaluation that God their Creator places on souls, and might treat souls with some of the priceless dignity which is theirs. When God wanted something valuable, He passed by, spurned the gold, the silver, the precious stones the world over. They were cheap to Him but souls were not. What price was Christ willing to pay for souls? Well, He bought, redeemed our souls at the price of His Precious Blood.

PRAYERS: (Deceased) wife of Aaron Huguenard, '22; father of Walt (Wal) and Jerry (How) Cordes (2nd. Anniv.); mother of Bro. Vincent, C.S.C.. Eight Special Intentions.