

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

Daily Mass and
Adoration is part of
a N.D. man's Lent.

University of Notre Dame
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It's Easter Duty time.
See Chaplain about your
Confirmation. Pray.

A Drunkard.

Matt Talbot collapsed on a street in Dublin in 1925. Those who had known him only from his younger days would have exclaimed, "Dead drunk again." That would have been rash judgment, for Matt had changed himself, with the help of God's grace. A heart condition had brought the sudden death. Those who prepared Matt for burial saw one of the means the good Irishman used in breaking his bad habit of intemperance. Matt had wrapped chains around his body as an act of penance. One chain was attached to his arm, another to his leg. He had worn these instruments of penance for fourteen years; little wonder they had penetrated deeply into his hips. Matt once declared that one of these pieces of metal had raised him from earth to heaven.

Besides daily acts of penance, Matt used two other necessary means of conquering the liquor habit, the avoidance of bad companions and constant prayer. The influence of drinking companions not infrequently undermines a sincere resolution to drink reasonably. Fellow workmen in a liquor supply house started Matt on a period of drunkenness that extended over a span of ten years. He who puts his hand into the fire gets burnt. Matt was painfully aware of that fact. The workmen usually spent their free time in the evening in the local saloon. Matt avoided this proximate occasion of sin by spending his recreation time elsewhere; he liked to visit a distant church. Matt's own brothers loved the bottle too affectionately. When they would not listen to his pleas of reform, he left the home of his parents and did not return until his brothers moved out. Naturally, Matt quit his job in the liquor store.

Sobriety is not attained without prayer: "Without Me you can do nothing." Matt took up prayer with a vengeance. His spirit of prayer is recommended to everyone subject to sins on intemperance. At 2 A.M. Matt rose and prayed until 4 A.M. In the evening he gave four hours to prayer. He said the Rosary every day and recited the various litanies. When there was a lull in the loading of trucks in the contractor's yard he would turn his heart to a short conversation with God or the saints. Lest he miss daily Mass, Matt quit one job so that he could make the 5:30 A.M. Mass. Five dollars was not a very rich weekly income, yet the poor often felt the benefits of alms from these wages.

There is an interesting life of Matt Talbot on the pamphlets racks. The Catholic Church beatified Matt in 1932. Plans for his canonization are being made. The young man who knows his weakness for drink will do well to pray to this saintly person to assist him in developing the manly quality of sobriety.

A Thief.

His name was Dismas. His last and most notable crime was the theft of heaven. It was a daylight job, and he took a rich haul right out of the hands of Christ himself. Christ was incapable of preventing the theft because His hands were nailed to the wood of the cross. And yet those hands inspired this notorious stealing. This is the only case in history where God permitted one man to tempt another to steal. The suffering Christ is to be blamed for the transfer of a portion of His riches to the Good Thief.

At first, Dismas was vehemently opposed to this last "job". Both he and his pal blasphemed Christ, "the thieves that were crucified with Him reproached Him ... and reviled Him." The sight of the suffering Christ touched the heart of Dismas to make a complete about-face. He rebuked the unrepentant thief, "We have received the due reward for our deed, but this man has done no evil." And then he said to Jesus, "Lord remember me when thou shalt come into thy kingdom." Christ gave him his request, "This day thou shalt be with Me in paradise." THE PASSION OF CHRIST CHANGED MATT TALBOT AND DISMAS. PASSIONTIDE OPENS THIS SUNDAY. READ A PART OF THE PASSION EVERY DAY DURING THE WEEK, AND MEDITATE ON YOUR CRUCIFIX. LET CHRIST CHANGE YOU.