

Holy Communion is
distributed in Sorin
all morning. (Confessions too)

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Late weekday Mass in
Sorin chapel at 7:20

How Augustine Conquered Impurity.

When impurity is having its own way with the soul and body, she says nothing and does nothing. But once the youthful and beautiful creature Chastity comes upon the scene, her jealousy flares up. Then Impurity becomes a liar, and her cunning knows no bounds. Augustine knows. He was not always a saint. His youth was one of illicit loves. When Chastity began to attract him, Impurity began to use all her trickery and soft words. This is the way St. Augustine described it in his "Confessions."

"My one-time mistresses held me back, plucking at my garment of flesh and murmuring softly: 'Are you sending us away?' And 'From this moment shall we not be with you, now or forever?' And 'From this moment shall this or that not be allowed you, now or forever?' What were they suggesting to me in the phrase I have written 'this or that,' what were they suggesting to me, O my God? Do you in your mercy keep from the soul of your servant the vileness and uncleanness they were suggesting. And now I began to hear them not half so loud; they no longer stood against me face to face, but were softly muttering behind my back and, as I tried to depart, plucking stealthily at me to make me look behind. Yet even that was enough, so hesitating was I, to keep me from snatching myself free, from shaking them off and leaping upwards on the way I was called: for the strong force of habit said to me 'Do you think you can live without them?'"

St. Augustine saw that in giving up impurity he was about to embrace a more attractive creature. The beauty and goodness of Chastity drew him.

"In the direction toward which I had turned my face and was quivering in fear of going, I could see the austere beauty of Continnence, serene indeed and joyous but not evilly, honourable soliciting me to come to her and not linger, stretching forth loving hands to receive and embrace me, hands full of multitudes of good examples. With her I saw such host of young men and maidens, a multitude of youth and of every age, gray widows and women grown old in virginity, and in them all Continnence herself, not barren but the fruitful mother of children, her joys, by You, Lord, her Spouse."

(Chastity spoke to Augustine and what she said gives the clew to how he conquered impurity.)

"And she smiled upon me and her smile gave courage as if she were saying: 'Can you not do what these men have done, what these women have done? or could men or women have done such in themselves, and not in the Lord their God? The Lord their God gave me to them. Why do you stand upon yourself and so not stand at all? Cast yourself upon Him and be not afraid; He will not draw away and let you fall. Cast yourself without fear, He will receive you and heal you.'"

And you? Is Chastity your bride? or are you caught in the embrace of sin? Let St. Augustine give you the lead: Cast yourself on Our Blessed Lord. Prayer and frequent Communion will bring you Chastity.

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Fernando Magno de Carvalho (St. Eds); father of John Machineck (Z, last sem); Mrs. Margaret Walsh; daughter of Dr. Moore, friend of John Pugh (Z); Frank McGreal, '31; Harry Crumley, '03, brother of Father Thomas Crumley, C.S.C. (Ill) Frank Driscoll, '30 - polio. 2 Special Intentions.