

Father Heintskill, CSC
is dying. Remember him
at Mass in the morning,
and at Communion.

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Football injuries are
increasing in number.
The Sat. Mass is the time
to pray for the team.

"Are Bad Thoughts Sinful?"

The mere presence of a bad thought, that is, any tempting image or desire, is no sin; it is a temptation, and no more. It sometimes happens that a person will have played with a few bad thoughts without reflecting about the kind of thought he was toying with, and then, suddenly becoming aware of the impure nature of the thought uses his special method of ridding himself of temptation. In this latter case, there is likewise no sin, if one is prompt in switching his thoughts to more wholesome subjects.

"What is the best method of avoiding sins of thought?"

The best method is that which each individual finds best for himself. A short prayer said at the moment of temptation is enough to take some people out of danger; others ought not to pray at all, because prayer only centers their thoughts more on impurity, the subject of their petition. Switching one's thoughts to a very pleasant memory, like an outstanding play in a football or basketball game, is often a good remedy. Some people hum or whistle to distract themselves from evil thoughts.

"I try to get rid of bad thoughts, but they often persist in sticking in my mind for a long while. What's wrong with my method?"

There is most likely nothing wrong with your method. You must be forgetting that the devil has power to make evil thoughts and desires hang on. Moreover, if one's past has been more or less saturated with evil, one is not going to change overnight the tendencies he has formed.

In the case of persistent temptation one is to be very patient, and periodically, during the course of the temptation, to turn his heart to God briefly with a promise to be faithful in this trial. If after a temptation of some length one realizes that he dilly-dallied occasionally, he should make a short act of love of God, and then forget about the negligence, because to carry the thought of the venial infidelity is only to keep the thought of impurity in one's mind.

"How can I tell when I have committed a sin of impurity in thought?"

If the temptation was moderately short, there is certainly no mortal sin if one did not want the sin, or if he used his special method of getting rid of the temptation. If one used his favorite method, yet dilly-dallied or toyed with the temptation before making an all-out effort to dismiss it, he commits a venial sin.

The Third Order of St. Francis.

A religious Order for laymen -- did you ever hear of one? An Order for engineers, housewives, lawyers, students and others who want to be serious about serving God, that is just what we mean. It was St. Francis who started this Order for Laymen. It is called the "Third" because it was the third religious group he founded. His First Order was for men in vows, his Second for women in vows and the Third was for laymen who wanted to keep the spirit of the religious Order and yet live in the world. Imagine a layman filled with the spirit of St. Francis. Well, the whole purpose of the Third Order is to help one attain that goal.

On the Notre Dame campus there is a Third Order Fraternity. If you are interested in knowing about the Rule of the Order and what it can do for you, you should attend the meeting Friday evening, 8:00 P.M. in the Rockne Memorial Lounge. Father Mark Hegener, a Franciscan priest will talk. All members of the Third Order whether of the Notre Dame fraternity or others are urged to attend this meeting.