

A Saint For Drunkards.

In heaven there are saints who were big sinners. Some were adulterers, like Mary Magdalen, some were thieves, like Dismas the Good Thief. And now the Catholic Church is about to raise a converted drunkard to the ranks of sainthood. In the Spring Matt Talbot of Dublin will be solemnly beatified by the Pope. Beatification is part of the process leading to the canonization of a person in the Church.

This country is overflowing with hard drinkers, many of them young men and women who are ruining their lives. The story of Matt Talbot's conversion is a text book on how drunkards and near-drunkards can reform their lives

Modern youth has the tavern and bar to contend with. Matt had the saloon. Of course, his first step in the return to a life of sobriety was to admit his weakness and to determine to avoid all occasions of sin.

Matt was aware that, in regard to liquor, he could not go halves; he had to give it up completely. He was smart enough to know that with his makeup he could not play with fire, and the saloon was all that for him. So he kept away from his old haunts. Fellow workers usually spent their evenings in the saloon. Matt avoided this proximate occasion of sin by spending his recreation time elsewhere. He often went to church some distance from the heart of town.

Like many present-day young people, Matt was started on the road to drunkenness by his companions. Intoxicants were easily available to Matt and his friends -- they worked in a liquor supply house. Very logically, when Matt determined to mend his ways, he quit his job in the liquor store. So determined was he to avoid the slightest danger of relapsing into drunkenness that he left the home of his parents when his drinking brothers refused to reform. He returned only when the brothers moved out.

Sobriety is not attained without prayer. Matt took up prayer with a vengeance. Not everyone is called to pray like he did, but all those who are trying to reform their lives must have Matt's spirit of prayer. At 2 A.M. he 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 lumber yard -- his new job -- he would turn his heart to a short conversation with God and with 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.

The young man who knows his weakness for drink will do well to pray to saintly Matt Talbot to assist him in developing the manly quality of temperance.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Sister Beata (Brooklyn) aunt of Eugene Maguire (Z). (Ill) aunt of Martin Maniscalco (A1). Three Special Intentions. One Thanksgiving

BY  
MASS

PREPARE

BY  
HOLY COMMUNION

LATE MASS 7:20 AM.

IN DILLON & CAVANAUGH

EXAMS

LATE COMMUNION IN  
DILLON UNTIL NOON:  
IN CAVANAUGH 'TIL 9:30