

Marriage Institute: Law
Building, 7:30, Friday
night...not Thursday.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 23, 1950

K-C's will canvass Lyons and
Morrissey for 2nd week Lenten
adorers. Late Masses: Dil:
7:20 & 8:10; Cav: 7:20 & 8.

* "I Have No Will Power."

"I've made Lenten resolutions before and didn't keep them. My intentions are healthy on Ash Wednesday but pretty sickly on Palm Sunday."

Two schools of thought squabble about what it is that makes the will strong. The so-called "old" school speaks of "strong will" in terms of strong muscles. According to their way of thinking, if you want a strong will, or a strong muscle, exercise it. Weight-lifting increases the bulges in your biceps, puts the body in condition to perform feats of strength. So, "they" say, if you want to perform feats of will-power, do spiritual gymnastics with your will.

However, the more modern view of psychologists, spiritual and otherwise, emphasize the importance of the MOTIVE which influences the will to act. If you have a weak motive, you have a weak will; a strong motive, a strong will; a persevering motive, a persevering will.

St. Thomas declares that the conscious recognition of something as a physical or moral good for you is necessary before you can really want it. In other words, the mind must grasp something as strongly desirable subjectively before the will will act.

Your mind recognizes this thing you want as of value to you. The more valuable the mind presents it, the stronger you will be motivated to desire it. If you will the end (this desirable something) strongly enough, you will will the means to possess it.

Oh, Yes, YOU Have Will Power.

Graduation from Notre Dame is a desirable something you long for. A degree from Notre Dame has particular value for you, so you have willed to possess it. To will the end, graduation, you must will the means necessary to graduate.

Regardless of inclemency in the weather, monotonous regularity of attending classes, irritating weekly quizzes, habitual physical craving for ease and easy living, you attend classes, study long hours, burn midnight oil cramming for examinations. Does all this effort demand will-power? Of course--but it implies strong motivation.

Making the Notre Dame football team is another motive that produces strong willing. Keeping in sound physical condition, enduring fatiguing setting-up exercises, working out in good weather and in foul, demands will power. But MAKING THAT TEAM is the strongly desirable something that keeps the "lads" in line. How often conflicting motives put up a struggle! Take the afternoon off, sack in instead of running wind sprints, smoke, eat candy, lounge around like lounge lizards. These motives haven't a fighting chance provided the all-persevering motive of MAKING THAT TEAM dominates. Will-power! Examine the motive that fathered the strong will.

Battle Of The Motives.

Do persevere in daily Mass and Communion work on the motive why devotion to the Eucharist is most important, why daily Mass and Communion is a value to be realized personally. Contrary motives will pester you like flies on a murky summer day. Habitually acting through motives of self-comfort, ease, pleasure, self-will, creates naturalistic motives which are at variance with supernatural motives, predominant among which is the necessity of saving your soul. Christ gives the means to undermine the natural motive: DENY YOURSELF, PICK UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME...Weak willing indicates weak motivation. If you want a strong will, build up a strong motive through prayer. Herein lies the importance of PRAYER. It strengthens supernatural motivation.

Prayers: (deceased) mother and wife of George Hughes, leaving him with three small children. ILL: Rev. John J. Burke, C.S.C.; RAY ESPENAN DESPERATELY NEEDS PRAYERS.