

Tonight: Meeting of all
PILGRIMITES, 107 Main Bldg,
7 o'clock

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 28, 1950

"And A Little Child Shall Lead Them."

Dominic Savio's First Holy Communion resolution was DEATH RATHER THAN SIN. When St. John Bosco first met this boy, he remarked, "You're good stuff, Dominic. You can make a fine garment for the Lord."

Dominic cheerfully replied, "I'm the stuff. You be the tailor. Take me with you and turn me into a beautiful garment for the Lord."

Dominic Savio, the youngest boy confessor, will be canonized a saint next Sunday, March 5.

Maria Goretti, 12-year old Virgin and Martyr, will be canonized June 25. Like Dominic she made promises at her First Holy Communion:

1. Never to consent to a sin of impurity;
2. To be devoted to our Lady of Sorrows;
3. To say three Hail Marys morning and night to obtain the grace never to defile her soul by sin.

The following account of the heroic defence of her chastity is taken from the pamphlet BLOOD-STAINED LILY by Alfred MacAonastair, C.P.

Alexander mounted the stairs and called Maria to come to him. She refused. Then his brutal passions broke with violence. He demanded that she sin or die. Maria saw the knife in his hand and cried out, "No, no, it is a sin. God does not want it. You will go to hell, Alexander."

He threw her to the floor, demanding again and again that she surrender. Her clear answer was decisive, NO, NO!....The chaste girl put up a heroic fight, purity struggled fiercely against impurity....Once more he demanded surrender. Once more she refused. The knife rose and fell, plunged to the hilt in her trembling body. Again and again, fourteen times, it buried itself in her quivering flesh....He left Maria weltering in her blood... The following day this beautiful, twelve-year-old girl died.

Still conscious and gasping for breath Maria was asked if she forgave her killer. Without hesitation she answered: "For the love of Jesus, I forgive him. My God, please forgive him! I want him with me in paradise like the repentant thief."

Our age needs saints like Dominic and Maria. For ours is an age of carnality, of easy surrender to pleasures of the flesh....DEATH RATHER THAN SIN! God offers this grace to young and old under the stress of severe temptation. What sharp contrast between these saintly youngsters who preferred death rather than offend God gravely and the complaisant, sexy assurance of the modern gigolo who brazenly boasts of immoral exploits, indecent reading, suggestive pin-ups defiling his room.

Has moral collapse already begun? St. Thomas Aquinas brings out clearly the inevitable effects of lust: "The higher powers, namely the reason and the will, are most grievously disordered by lust. (This results in progressive) blindness of the mind....rashness....thoughtlessness....inconstancy....hatred of God....and despair of a future world."

Prayers: (deceased) father of Art Curran (-C); mother of Father Ziska, O.S.B.; Mrs. Lawless; Michael Montagano; Mr. William Costellini '22. ILL: (Operations) sister of Rev. Thomas Kelly, C.S.C., Robert Bachner (How); ILL: aunt of Joseph McCabe (O-C); mother of Bill Hawley (O-C); mother of Frank Maley (How); friend of H. Dulude, grandfather of Fobt. Crump (Dil).