

Have you been shriven?

University of Notre Dame

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Thanks To O.F.M.

One condition was omitted (in the Bulletin of May 22) for gaining the Jubilee Indulgence. So add this: (under prayers) 3 Hail Marys with the additional invocation "Queen of Peace, pray for us" after each Hail Mary.

Will The Devil Make A Sucker Out Of You?

Satan is the most evil genius active in the world today. He is the cruelest and most despicable of God's creatures. Scripture tells us that he goes about the world seeking whom he may devour. His main interest in your life is to drag you away from God. Any means, no matter how foul or how clever, will be used against you.

Sometimes he may appear as an angel of light, as a wolf in sheep's clothing. He may not tempt you directly; others may be used as his dupes and minions. A friend of yours may point out a suggestive passage in a novel; another might coax you into having "a few" in this tavern; even an automobile might run out of gas near Calumet City.

Satan certainly promotes the materialistic attitude toward life. He knows that your powers to think are circumscribed by the material world, that all knowledge comes to you through your senses, that the sense-world in times of prosperity is alluring and pleasurable. So Satan can contact you through the senses which put you in immediate contact with matter over which he exerts powerful influence.

Scripture speaks of three major sources of man's downfall: the world, the flesh and the devil. Never discount the devil, his power to induce immoral images, his power to produce spells of discouragement, his power to make a sucker out of you. The very notion of being ashamed of purity among your friends when a pal cracks a dirty story, or brags about his "experiences" with women, or tips you off about a "best smeller" . . . who else but Satan can sire that phony critiron of social approval which practically dares you to be different?

The devil may not trap you by mortal sin; he may be content to tempt you to be less virtuous than you could be. If you are a daily communicant, he'll try to make you a weekly communicant. If you are a weekly communicant, he'll try to talk you in to going once a month. Or he'll convince you that as long as this thing you want to do is not a mortal sin, it's all right, go ahead, he says, venial sins won't damn you. So if he can't kill you, he'll try to weaken you, because he knows better than you know that if there is less good in the world, there will probably be more evil.

How well Satan knows that in his long-term dealing with many souls, deliberate venial sins, although they do not add up to mortal sin, nevertheless dispose the soul for mortal sin.

The mortal-sin complex--"How far can I go, Father, till I commit a mortal sin"--is the devil's maxim. How far can one go with a girl before committing mortal sin? . . . How much can one drink before getting theologically drunk? . . . How filthy must a book be before one commits grave sin? . . . How many cokes can one jolt out of a coke machine before a serious sin of theft is committed? . . . "Taking in a burlesque won't bother me!"; . . . What a far cry all this from: "If you want to be my disciple, deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow Me!"

When you're asking yourself now if your religion can stand the summer temperature, keep in mind what Maldonatus (quoted by Monsignor Knox) says: "There are no worse Catholics than those who were at one time very religious, but couldn't stick to what they had got."

Prayers: (deceased) Miss Catherine Barry; father of Bob Hassenauer (Dil).