

University of Notre Dame

Tonight: Novena to the
Sorrowful Mother ...

Religious Bulletin
March 6, 1953

in Sacred Heart Church at
6:45. Father Thomas Brennan
will talk again.

Interesting Cousins

Study the Seventh Commandment closely. You will find that stealing has some interesting first cousins. They may be associating with you more closely than you have realized heretofore.

Local Applications

This Commandment forbids not only stealing, but anything equivalent to stealing whereby we cause a loss to another. Here at Notre Dame, we may violate this commandment in many ways without being noticeably bothered by our guilt. Cheating in all its forms comes under this heading. And so does the refusal to pay debts, keeping things which belong to another, borrowing and wearing out the roomie's ties, shirts, etc. These are all forms of loss to another, unless the owner specifically surrenders his title of ownership.

And so are the many acts of vandalism which destroy property. Men who disfigure the walls of their rooms, break furniture, or windows, or screens come under this heading. Men who destroy lawns, shrubbery, or disfigure the campus to an extent that creates extra work for maintenance crews, are responsible for needless expense. All this carelessness has a moral responsibility about it.

Off-campus men who eat in the dining halls on another's card are stealing -- there's no other word for it. A card is issued to a man on the condition that it be used by him alone. The over-all picture of absence from meals determines the cost of your board. It isn't the same as using another's caf book to buy a meal.

Students who deprive the bus company, railroads, and cab companies of fares through some subterfuge -- or who destroy property of these agencies -- are also violators of the Seventh Commandment.

Students who waste food or the utilities, or hall supplies, or parents' goods, are insulting the Providence of God. No one, no matter how wealthy he happens to be, may waste anything with impunity.

Anyone who knowingly cooperates with a thief is likewise guilty of the theft. Anyone who knowingly buys stolen property, or uses stolen property, participates with the thief in his crime.

Moral Responsibility.

Call these actions a prank, a lark, a game -- whatever you wish -- the fact remains that we cause another a loss. It is an injustice to him. Horse-play with no evil intent explains -- but does not excuse -- your destructive act. And justice demands that you make restitution -- if not in this world, then in the next. The Bulletin is not concerned here with the Disciplinary Department whose task is to correct external infractions of regulations. The Bulletin deals with matters of conscience only.

If you find any of these "cousins" camping on your hearth, Lent would be a good time to throw them out of your house.

Tomorrow is the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, Patron of Catholic scholars. Keeping close to St. Thomas will keep you close to God. Tomorrow is also the First Saturday of the month -- the day for Fatima Devotions in private.

PRAYERS Deceased: aunt and uncle of Bill Noonan of Walsh; grandfather of Walt Nagel of St. Edward's. Ill wife of Prof. Danahy. 2 Special Intentions.