

Remember: There's daily  
Adoration this week only  
in the Lady Chapel of

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
May 24, 1954

Sacred Heart Church. Choose  
a half-hour between 10 and  
5 for the best investment  
of your life.

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Law And Order

Query: Here I am, hemmed in by all kinds of moral laws. Why can't I be free from them? Who's harmed if I break them?

Reply: This, without question, is a world of laws; for example; fire burns, bodies fall to earth and not up to the sky; hunger weakens, etc.

Man himself didn't make these laws. In fact, they are often the reverse of what he would have made them.

But whether man likes them or not, he cannot get away from them. He may act as if laws didn't exist; but, if he does, he starves, or he gets his ~~hands~~ burnt; or he takes an unpleasant tumble with a thump on the end of it. Laws damage or destroy him.

There is no such thing as freedom from these physical laws. There is only freedom in them, in knowing them and in cooperating with them.

The moral law, too, which governs the soul, was not made by man, and is not dependent upon man's approval.

Man can ignore the moral law; he can break it; but the result will be his own diminution or destruction.

Excessive drinking, disorderly and irrational indulgence of sex, lying, swearing -- all these diminish a man's dignity and social worth, and turn him off from the paths that lead to temporal and eternal happiness.

There is no such thing as freedom from the moral law, either. There is only freedom in the moral law -- in knowing it expertly, and in keeping it.

God's laws are the expression of His knowledge of man's nature and destiny. God knows the kind of being man is, for He made man. And for the same reason He knows what man is made for, and He knows what will make man happy.

God's laws are a precise statement of how this particular kind of being may avoid destruction, and reach his particular goal.

The maker of an automobile is not limiting your freedom when he tells you to oil it at certain points, or not to run it beyond a given speed. He tells you these things because he knows what will injure or destroy your automobile.

And if you plead that you demand more speed; that you feel stifled by slow running -- he may very well grow impatient. He knows what speed is right for your car because he made it.

God's laws, too, are best thought of as "Maker's Instructions" -- directions for the right use of ourselves.

Drive an automobile against the maker's instructions and you wind up with a pile of useless iron and steel. Observe instructions and you get efficient service.

For the greatest share of contentment on earth, and for your eternal happiness, observe the moral law, -- your Maker's Instructions for the conduct of your moral life.

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PRAYERS - Deceased: Barry Szymanski; aunt of Dave Schlaak (off-campus); uncle of Ed Fitzpatrick of Alumni. Ill: father of Rev. Michael Murphy, CSC; mother of C. Rulli (operation).