

Tonight: Don't miss the
Bengal Bouts. The fighters
are in top shape. And ...

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 14, 1955

they're going all out for
other N.D. men in God's front
line -- our missionaries.

Praying To St. Joseph For Purity

Notre Dame is just down-to-earth enough to enlist your interest in praying to St. Joseph these days for the virtue of purity. Not that you're a particularly vicious-minded outfit, understand. Rather, it is because we live in a world that is materialistic -- where a Cadillac means culture, and a vitamin is virtue. Bodily comfort can become the main objective of life. Pleasure can, in this atmosphere, become the yardstick of what is good; while pain is regarded as the only evil to be avoided.

Some months ago, an Indiana professor came up with statistics to prove that many men and women, to a very great extent, have abandoned the old code of morality. This proves, in Kinsey's estimation, that the Christian regulations are outmoded; and that the Church should re-appraise its views on morality; that society be allowed to form its own sex code.

It would almost seem that Kinsey had never heard that Christian morality comes not from society, but from Christ Whose authority is accepted by us because He proved Himself to be God. Kinsey would take a poll; and if the majority didn't like one or two, or all of the Commandments -- why, then we would do away with them.

But voting against the Ten Commandments is like voting against water being liquid, or stones being hard, or ice being cold. No, our vote changes nothing.

Don't for a minute, think that you are immune to this atmosphere of materialistic reasoning, or that your emotions cannot be disturbed, or that your desires cannot become unruly, or your passions cannot revolt against the narrow confines of God's laws regarding sex.

Walk down any street, pick up any newspaper, glance through almost any book, or comic sheet. You quickly find out how easily this poisonous air can assail you; and how easily particles of this tainted atmosphere can get into your own thinking processes. There's nothing new about this situation, at all. Men have been battling their lower natures ever since the day of Original Sin -- when the mind was darkened, the will weakened, and our passions assumed an attitude of revolt.

We Need Some Help

Purity is the virtue that begets a right attitude toward sex. It doesn't ignore sex, but rather sets our mind and heart straight on the matter. It tells us that sex is a good and holy thing because it was created by God. It tells us that God has confined its use and its pleasure to the holy state of marriage; and even there it continues as a virtue under the protective mantle of genuine love.

Young men have strong bodily appetites -- for food, for pleasure, for comfort. With the help of God's grace -- through self knowledge, self-denial, and self control -- we can conquer our appetites and bring them under subjection to conform with God's law.

But you can't do it alone. It takes courage to practice self-denial. And it is only through God's grace that you will acquire this courage, make no mistake about it. Purity is a rugged, manly virtue -- reserved for strong men who possess a strength that comes most readily from self-denial. We suggest you offer your Mass, Communion, and Rosary, the next five days for the graces you need most in your individual life regarding the virtue of purity.

PRAYERS -- Deceased: Judge Kickham Scanlon; mother of Herman Lienect of Zahm; friend of Arden Norton of Cavanaugh; grandmother of Dick Cook of Alumni; mother of Brother Marcellinus, CSC (Postmaster); father of John Nutant of Dillon, Ill; uncle of Bill Kilburg of Alumni; father of Myles Walshe of Cavanaugh. 2 Special Intentions.