

Today is the 6th Anniversary of Our Sorrowful Mother Novena.

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A Lenten "MUST" for all: to be on time for Sunday Mass, and dressed in your "best."

Admonishing The Sinner

This is one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy, and one that should fit into your charity these days of Lent. The Bulletin does this every day. Were there no sinners, the Bulletin would be in a bad way for readers. The priest also does this work. But it's not the business of these two exclusively. It's the duty of every Catholic to admonish sinners -- but it must be done with prudence, patience, and charity -- and a big allowance of courage by every man who loves his neighbor for the love of God. How to go about it? Here are some pointers:

1. The Good-Natured Sinner: This poor fellow is a friend of everyone but himself. He's his own worst enemy. You can't help liking him; and you hate to see him go wrong. He sins just because he can't say "No" to the temptation. Make use of his charitable inclinations: make him promise to spend as much on charity as he does on sin. Get him to make the little hall retreat next weekend. Drag him along with you to Adoration this week. Take him to the Lenten Series. "Charity covereth a multitude of sins." Charity will cover his sins if you lead him away from the occasions.
2. The Timid Sinner: He's overwrought, and sensitive, and is tortured by sin, yet he hasn't the nerve to go to Confession. Tell him what he knows already: that the Sacrament of Penance is a supernatural institution, in which the priest acts merely as God's representative, and in which he has the fullest protection through the sacramental seal. Encourage him to overcome self-consciousness once for all by going to a particular priest for plain advice outside Confession.
3. The Stiff-Necked Sinner: He's the victim of PRIDE -- the most hopeless obstacle to spiritual progress. And unless it is caught and tamed in school here, the chances for conversion are small -- unless he marries a wife who will lead him a dog's life. Pray for him. Humiliate him when the occasion offers. Say: "Mularkey" when he offers the time-worn excuse that sin is natural. Fast and mortify yourself for his sake, remembering that Our Lord told the Apostles of the kind of devil that yields only to prayer and fasting.
4. The Roughneck Sinner: Introduce him to a good girl who is wise and patient, and gifted with enough sense of humor to take up his training where his mother left off. In time she will smoothe the rough edges. And he will emerge a dutiful husband, and a militant Catholic.
5. The Hard-Boiled Sinner: Take him to a priest and save his soul. His great fear, (his complex), is that someone will discover what a thoroughly tender conscience he really has. Call his bluff -- that's all he really has for defense -- then let a priest show him plainly that his tender conscience is nothing to be ashamed of, but rather an asset. He will then begin a beautiful spiritual development, and will be ever grateful to you.

Any time you side-step an opportunity to admonish a classmate, or an erring member of the younger generation, you are doing no favor to yourself, to the younger student, or to the school. It takes a brave man, indeed, and it takes tact, to admonish the sinner. But it's worth the effort, because great charity is involved.

The Polio Vaccination Committee at the Children's Hospital is very grateful to all who volunteered last Sunday to assist in handling the crowds at the hospital. Thanks!

PRAYERS! - Deceased: grandfather of Robert Swiercz, 56 (Law); grandfather of Richard Healy of Howard. Ill: aunt and uncle of John McFadden of Dillon.