

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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Notre Dame, Ind.

NOVENA FOR EXAMINATIONS: May 21 - May 29

Justification: "If you ask the Father anything in My Name, He will give it to you."

Purpose:

- a) Your own -- help in preparing for examinations
- b) God's -- to entice you to union or closer union with Him. "Taste and see that the Lord is sweet."

Your part: conscientious study during the semester or at least, conscientious study during the novena

God's part: not miracles or magic but

- a) The gifts of perseverance and peace of mind necessary to apply yourselves diligently to your preparation for the exams.
- b) The sharpening of your memories to recall in the exams the matter you once learned.
- c) Granting you the insight to study those things the prof might ask on the exams.
- d) Guiding the profs to ask the questions you are best prepared to answer.

(You suggest that God answer your prayers in one or more of these ways, if it be His Holy Will. He may find other and better ways. What you can be sure of is that your prayers will be heard and that you will be better for having made the novena.)

AFTER THE BALL IS OVER . . .

One of the inevitable drawbacks of human love is to be found and acknowledged in the finiteness of all created reality. To be finite is to be limited; and where there are limits, those limits will often be reached in actual practice. There are strict boundaries to what we may call the knowability of a human being, and, evidently, the more shallow the personality, the more swiftly and completely will that individual be known for once and for all. It must be a terrible experience in marriage to be forced to the realization that under an attractive surface and adequate mannerisms there is really no person to speak of.

from Rev. Vincent P. McCorry, S.J.
in America (May 18, 1963)

NOVENA PRAYERS

Ineffable Creator, Who in the greatness of Thy wisdom hast appointed three hierarchies of angels and set them in wondrous order above the highest heaven, and with surpassing nicety hast compacted of widely varied elements the material universe, Thou Who art with strictest right hailed true source and sovereign, principle of light and wisdom, deign to cast upon my darkened mind a ray of Thy splendor, and to clear me of the two-fold darkness in which I was born; that, namely, of sin and ignorance. Thou Who givest speech to the tongues of little ones, lend skill to my tongue and put upon my lips the grace of Thy benediction. Bless me with a keen mind, a capacious and retentive memory, skill and ease in learning, aptitude for explaining, a pleasing and adequate manner of expression. Inspire me in beginning, direct my progress, and perfect the finished task, Thou Who are true God and true Man; Who livest and reignest through all eternity. Amen.

O Holy Spirit, Soul of my soul, I adore Thee. Enlighten, guide, strengthen and console me. Tell me what I ought to do and inspire me to do it. I promise to be submissive in everything that Thou permittest to happen to me: only show me what is Thy Will.

(Then say three Hail Marys; finish with the invocation, "Seat of Wisdom, Pray for Me.")

AN INSTRUCTION IN PURITY by Cardinal O'Hara, C.S.C.

God could have created all people at once, or He could have created bodies successively as He does souls, but God created man "to His own image and likeness," and as a part of that likeness He gave man a share in His creative power, which is the power we find the most awe-inspiring when we contemplate God in His works. It is the great desire of God that heaven be peopled with saints who will be happy with Him eternally; yet He makes the creation of a soul depend upon the will of a man and a woman.

Herein we see the tremendous responsibility of marriage. It is a partnership, not merely between man and woman, but between a man and woman and God. God is not mocked. A terrible judgment awaits the man or the woman who tries to cheat God out of His share in the partnership. No majority vote, no law, no court of justice can make right what the Holy Ghost has called a "detestable sin," -- the sin of frustration of the primary purpose of marriage.

Grave cares and responsibilities attend the use of this creative power. Whoever assumes responsibility for the life of a child must give that child a two-fold education, material and spiritual, natural and supernatural: the child must be put in a position to make a living and gain heaven. Sacrifice by the parents for the child begins with the life of the child and ends only with death. Selfish men and women who foresee pains and cares and disappointments are tempted strongly to forego parenthood; God knows these temptations and supplies motives to offset them -- the instinct of fatherhood and motherhood, the love of children, the desire to have the companionship and solicitous care of one's own in life's declining years, and so forth. One of the strongest incentives to the act by which God's plan of creation is carried on is the pleasure, both mental and physical, contained in the act itself.

The pleasure is not evil in itself. It is a good when it is used as a means to the end God intended it to serve, in lawful marriage (the stability of which insures to the child the care of both father and mother in its education). But it is an abominable evil, hateful to God and shameful to men, to seek this pleasure for itself without regard to the end for which God intended it. If the procuring or voluntary acceptance of this pleasure outside of its lawful end were not a mortal sin, a great many would avoid the burdens of married life, and God's plan of creation would be frustrated. It is evident, therefore, that any thought, word, look, desire, reading, conversation, or act that produces such pleasure is forbidden under pain of mortal sin when it is admitted voluntarily and without necessity; and if such pleasure arises accidentally from such necessary pursuit, the will must be set steadfastly against the pleasure.

(To be concluded in the next Religious Bulletin)

In Your Charity Please pray for the following. Deceased: mother of Jack Pascal of Zahm. Ill: fiancée of Tom Fallat of Walsh (injured in an automobile accident); grandfather of Tom Dolan of Alumni.