

It is brought so often to our attention that the formation of character is brought about by habits deliberately cultivated that the whole idea of character formation brings us to a kind of nausea. But, nevertheless and alas, the mortification of the will means precisely this. The will doing penance is not a matter of going as far as possible against nature; it is not a matter of suppressing every desire till a state is reached of placid indifference; it is not a matter of issuing harsh commands to the flesh. RATHER: it is a matter of CHOOSING to live according to God, and of choosing also the best ways of doing so.

The will does not train the rest of man's make-up in fear BUT IN LOVE! The aim is not mastery but surrender. The will must evolve a technique in which there is discipline without ruthlessness, detachment without stony indifference, resignation without sterility. There must be life not death!! In order to attain to this wise and strong rule, the soul must condition itself to wise and strong choices, to wise and strong action. This is where the tiresome subject of good habits comes in. A man must choose the less easy course so often that when the way is open to sin he goes on choosing in the way that has become second nature to him.

The law of habit is as present in the moral order as the law of gravity is present in the physical order. The will answers the gravitational pull of the habit that it has formed about it. A bad will can be turned into a good will ONLY by repeated denial of its demands, only by the law of perseverance in the CONTRARY HABIT.

Deliberately cultivated habit wears down the inhibitions and impulses that are contrary to it: it hollows out in the rock of our natures a smooth passage along which either grace on the one hand or temptation (sin) on the other can easily move.

It is commonplace to observe that the will which has been subject to a law or way of life that is bad and sinful cannot be brought without a struggle under a law that is good. No random effort will effect the change; no sudden resolution will put to end that which is bad; no spectacular reform will make all things beautiful again. It is much, much more than that! The prodigal son has to walk home the way he came, over the same ground, STEP BY STEP in the other direction. The dawn of true wisdom is not enough, hatred of sin is not enough; THERE HAS TO BE PROOF POSITIVE IN THE RETURN TO GOD!!!

MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Father Abbot's Schedule Only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of the Chapels
MONDAY:	Dec. Howard Kelley
TUESDAY:	Special Int. Virginia Balnis
WEDNESDAY:	Special Int. Rose Marie Dyer
THURSDAY:	Dec. Nicholas Beres
FRIDAY:	Monastic Act of Reparation (SACRED HEART OF JESUS)
SATURDAY:	Dec. Clarence Russnak

Feria Sexta post Octavam Ss̄mi Corporis Christi

IN FESTO
SACRATISSIMI CORDIS JESU

Duplex I classis cum Octava privilegiata 3 ordinis