Lent's coming. You'll all be bearing down a bit. (Here's hopin'). It's a time to take the switch and beat yourself blue. Yup, in Lent, men get tougher on themselves and they're nicer to Others. They really try to get rid of their sins and replace them with the opposite virtues.

"St. Bernard once begged a notorious sinner to refrain from sin for three days, and to live for that time in peace with God. The man thought he surely could resist temptation for so short a period as three days. He exercised the greatest self-control, and succeeded in not falling into his accustomed vice.

"After three days St. Bernard besought him to live three more days without sin for the love of Our Lady; and he was again successful.

"The saint then urged him, as he said, for the last time, to lead a good life for three days in honor of all the Saints. Before they were over, the man came to him and promised that he would make his peace with God, not for a few days only, but for the rest of his life. The bad habit was conquered."

A good friend of ours in Pennsylvania sent us that story which he saw in the "1939 Almanac of the Sacred Heart." It serves well to show you the spirit of Lent. Do penance—the hard thing—for the love of God. Persist and you shall be good. You'll root up the bad.

Take some special fault of yours. Are you unkind? Are you a bad-story teller? Have you been used to cheating in class? Surely, unless you're a saint, there is something you are that you shouldn't be.

Figure out your predominant fault, the one that recurs most frequently. Aim against that. Day in and day out. That's your target this Lent. Don't misfire.

But remember—you've got to be tough. You can't do that thing for three days. No sir, can't be unkind, can't tell a bad story, can't cheat in class, can't break any one of the Ten Commandments. Are you equal to it? Get a good start tonight. Be going smooth by Ash-Wednesday, first day of Lent. Now is the time to start.

What insurance are you taking out to guarantee success for the first three days? Mass and Holy Communion—the whole Mass and careful Holy Communion—are your very best bet. God's grace is the thing along with good will that begets self-control.

What of the second three days? (Gosh! it was tough not swearing, not lettin' a "yip" out for three long days—seventy-two hours) What about devotion to Mary, visits to the Grotto? What of the Adoration? Kneel a while, silent, and really think. Yes, there He is: your God, your All. He's the one—no one else—who died for you on the Cross. The meat of His Flesh, the strength of His Blood is what you need. The world's very best transfusion! Make the whole Mass and Holy Communion every day in Lent.

As to self-denial, and that's in a way the essence of Lent, just make up your mind you're hoppin' out of bed first thing in the morning. That'll keep the old will in trim. "No, no, no, a thousand times No" you say to that nice, warm bod. (Aw, can't I go back for a second?) "NO."

Hey! No bad literature in Lent, either!

PRAYERS: (deceased) Mr. Herbert Altken (Meerce, Mass.) uncle of Fr. Gartland; Andrew J. Smith; Arthur Cruttenden; Mary E. Sullivan; (anniv.)father of Joe Buckler (Mcr.); friend of Ed. Huff (How.); (3rd anniv.) grandmother of Joe Kangano (Dil.); uncle of Rob Sass (Baldin); mother of Victor Assad (Frc.); Mary Durkin; Mrs. J. Wawrzyniak, mother of Fr. Joseph (Czartorysk, Poland). Ill, mother of "Swede" Stefanik (St.Eds.); Don F. O'Keefe '03 (seriously); sister of Frank Falkan (Cam.); grandmother of Joe Flynn (Zahn); mother of Joe Doyle '37 - '38 (Spokane, Wash.); F.G. Dorsey (Plainfield, N.J.); father of Bill Fender (Mcr.); mother of Ed McHugh (Lyons); (critically) aunt of Fr. Healy, C.S.C.

40 HOURS (TIME OF GRACE) GOOD TIME FOR "OLD TIMERS" AWAY FROM "ROX" TO COME BACK.