Tragedy.

Not many days ago near Logansport, Indiana, a crack Pennsylvania train was derailed. The locomotive and six cars were thrown off the tracks. A Notre Dame graduate was killed and a Notre Dame student returning to school after the mid-semester vacation was injured. Others were killed and injured; the casualties numbered forty-nine.

A small thing caused the tragedy—a bale of fence wire on the track. The wreck was no mere accident. The wire was placed on the right of way by two small boys, ten and eleven years old—for the fun of it.

Bigger boys than these are causing even greater tragedies—for the fun of it—by what appears on the surface to be a small thing, namely, the indecent joke and story. Yet one impure conversation can tempt a listener to commit sins of thought and desire, and even inspire him, sooner or later, to perform sinful actions.

A train wreck, once it takes place, is over. But this is not the case with the wreck caused by an immoral conversation. A story or joke with its impure suggestions often causes the same wreck over and over again. One story is often the cause of repeated temptation and sin. That comes about because the human imagination is like a camera. It has the power to make mental photographs of the images that come before the eyes of a person. Likewise, it also has power to photograph the images formed by the mind itself. Indecent remarks and stories offer the material for such photographs.

A story can cause an immediate temptation, and it also has a delayed-action quality about it, worse than any similar action in a bomb, because these explosions are powerful enough to open the way to hell. The mind does not annihilate the photographs made in its movie house, but rather stores them away. They may be shelved for months, even years, yet some incident or the devil can bring them back to the screen of the mind in their terrible vividness and detail, thus causing temptation all over again.

Just remember that an impure story is a booby trap of the deadliest sort.

About leading another into sin, Our Blessed Lord used the strongest language. Let the guilty person be weighted down and thrown into the sea: "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it were better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea".

PRAYERS: (deceased) father, '18, of Bill Dunn, ex '43; father of Bob Reid (Al); Major Edward Mordan, cousin of Brother Claver, CSC; grandmother of Jim Fitzgerald; James Bowes, father of Norman, '35 and Richard '38 Bowes; Mrs. Marie Mendelson, wife of Herbert Mendelson (attended Minims). (Ill) Mrs. Richard Conlin and Joseph Higgins, friends of Harry Yeager (How); Don Birren (Sor), St. Joseph's Hospital; uncle of Ray Rupek (Z); Father Roman Ladewski; CSC, appendectomy. Four Special Intentions. Three Thanksgivings.