

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.  
March 9, 1925.

The Novena to St. Joseph.

The Novena for a Happy Marriage begins tomorrow. Receive Holy Communion every day and recite the Litany of St. Joseph during the nine days. Pray for two things: a good wife and the grace to make her a good husband.

How to Prepare for Marriage.

"How should Catholics prepare for marriage?" "By the Sacrament of Extreme Unction," was the answer made by a wise little girl. That is a proximate preparation. Few of you need a proximate preparation while in school, but every student who expects to get married needs to be concerned about the remote preparation. The following suggestions under this head are intended to be helpful:

1. If possible, keep your head. Insanity and blindness are natural concomitants of love, but, if possible, keep your head.
2. Lead a clean life. That is always possible. The great aids to it are:
  - a) Clean ideals, the Blessed Virgin for womanhood, and St. Joseph for manhood;
  - b) Clean companionship, dictated by decent self-respect;
  - c) The private vow of chastity, with your confessor's permission;
  - d) Ardent attachment to the Sacraments and prayer.
3. Learn frugality. The girl who has to be won by expensive presents is not worth winning. Let her love you for yourself. If you spoil her now you will have to pay the bills later on. Early marriage is nearly always to be preferred, as it means accommodation of character during the pliable years, and frugality is usually essential to early marriage.
4. Seek counsel. Your parents may be pretty dumb in your eyes, but they know heaps more than you do about marriage. And the priest knows plenty about what wrecks marriage. Those who don't consult him before marriage are most likely to after it is too late.
5. Never confuse either infatuation or lust with love. Love implies reverence. A girl who does not command your respect is unworthy of you. Your own self-respect demands that you shun such company; and if you are lacking in self-respect, you are doomed to learn by bitter experience that lust is a usurer who sucks blood even to the grave.
6. Try out her cooking. What is the favorite topic of conversation at school? Food, without a doubt; it outdistances athletics, religion, philosophy, girls, everything. It is the great interest that engineers have in common with the rest of mankind. She may never have to soil her hands with dish-water; but if she doesn't, you will. There'll come a time! Don't wait until after marriage to domesticate her. If she doesn't know how to run a home you won't have a home.

Gent Thus Far.

1130 1035 1053 1102 1213 1037 1093 1108 1121 1224 1004 1228

The average to date is 1113, an increase of 134 a day over last year. The Prefect of Religion begs pardon for his absence of Saturday. There was a drop of 220 that day.

Prayers.

Four sick persons and two special intentions.

John P. O'Hara, C.S.C.,  
Prefect of Religion.