

Religious Bulletin

May 19, 1928

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Christian Marriage.

The Statutes of the Diocese of Fort Wayne require that once a year in all parishes the following instruction on Christian marriage be read to the faithful:

"Marriage is one of the seven Sacraments of the Church, and subject to her jurisdiction as are the other Sacraments. Her laws regarding it are consequently binding in conscience on Catholics, and a deliberate transgression of them is a grave act of disobedience.

"Catholics cannot contract a valid marriage except in the presence of a duly authorized priest and two witnesses. If they attempt marriage before a squire or minister, their marriage is null and void in the eyes of God, as well as sacrilegious. Moreover, the Catholic parties must bear in mind that they are living in sin.

"The Church requires that, when Catholics desire to marry, this fact must be announced on three consecutive days of obligation. The publication of banns frequently prevents hasty and ill-advised marriages, and invites the faithful to pray for the betrothed. Hence publication of the banns is a very important law of the Church and will not be dispensed from save for a very grave reason.

"Mixed marriages are strictly forbidden by the Church. She is opposed to these alliances, because the faith of the Catholic party is endangered, the mutual help for salvation is wanting, the Catholic education of children is jeopardized.

"No Catholic should promise to marry a non-Catholic without first consulting the pastor. A dispensation is needed, which will not be granted unless there is a strong reason for the same. A good and sufficient reason would be well-grounded hope of the conversion of the non-Catholic.

"Moreover, besides the usual conditions of the Church for such marriages, the non-Catholic must, as a rule, take at least four instructions regarding the tenets of the Catholic Church.

"In Catholic marriages for the publication of the banns, and in mixed marriages for the due instruction of the non-Catholic, the pastor must be approached about a month in advance. Unless the pastor has sufficient evidence that Catholics are well instructed in their faith and in the onerous duties of the married state, he will give them a course of suitable instructions.

"A Christian marriage entered into according to the law of the Church, when consummated cannot be dissolved by any human power, as is evident from the words of Christ: "What, therefore, God hath joined together, let no man put asunder." Catholics may not apply to the court for civil divorce without permission from the Bishop, which will not be given except for very weighty reasons. All -- principals and abettors -- who deliberately and knowing ignore this regulation, are guilty of grievous sin. Catholics, validly married, who, with or without permission, have secured a civil divorce, and who attempt another marriage, are guilty of the grave sin of adultery. Moreover, when applying to the bishop for permission to institute divorce proceedings, the reasons for it and the promise not to marry again during the life-time of the other party, must be given in writing and sworn to."

Prayers.

Gerald Desmond and Ray Connors ask prayers for their brothers who are undergoing operations; John Rickord and Paul Leuken for deceased relatives; another student for a deceased friend. Five special intentions are recommended, two of them very urgent.