
"Why Do Husbands and Wives Fight So Much?"

This question, with a corollary asking for remedies for the situation, brought the following reply from the question department of The Apostle, a missionary magazine published by the Marianhill Fathers:

"Fights and quarrels are due to many causes and each fight will have its own story. Many married folks find out too late in life, what they wouldn't believe in earlier years of sweet love and perfect partnership. Your wife had faults and you wouldn't see them. Instead of studying each other's character and adjusting your lives accordingly, you just loved and loved and dreamed and dreamed, and when the real lady and the real man showed themselves you were surprised and began tearing that partner to pieces to see if it was real, and you found out that it was, and the torn partner resented the tearing and so the story goes on.

"Some married folks make the big mistake of blaming their partners for every blunder or fault, instead of pausing a moment or several moments to ask themselves, if possibly they have been the occasion or even the cause of their partner's strange behavior. We all have our faults and faultlets and sensible married people are willing to take part of the blame for mistakes, as they are entitled to part of the praise for proper behavior and success.

"Did you ever stop to think that two are needed for a fight; nobody will fight alone. Refuse to be a party to a fight and take all the fight out of the other. Hold back that angry word of blame or excuse or resentment; wait a while; neither you nor your partner can reason rightly when you are angry; both of you are making fools of yourselves. Calm down and let your troubles rest; perhaps at a later hour you will have recovered your right minds and will be able to talk matters over sensibly.

"Let the other party think, that he or she is right for the moment, and you will accomplish more than by argument or fight or quarrel or whatever you choose to call it.

"A clever little lady devised a scheme all her own. Whenever her husband would say an angry word or scold, she would slip over to the water faucet or hydrant and take a mouthful of water and go about her work; she didn't swallow it, however. With her mouth full of water, she couldn't talk back -- and never had an argument. That is one way and there are others."

We are sure the editor will not object to our adding one suggestion: If the husband and wife receive the Sacraments together every Sunday morning, no quarrel will ever last more than a week.

With Pleasure.

"Dear Father: I am something of a humanist myself, if you know what I mean. I should like somehow to reach the others who don't know what they mean. I should like to tell them about a book called "The Long Road Home." It does show what humanism can do for a man who is really sincere about it. The author is John Moody. He is an American of the Big Business type. Business and financial wizard and all that. I am in my third reading..... but to say more would spoil it for the others. -- Byways."

We get what you mean, but we do wish you would pause between your third and fourth readings to give some one else a chance. Moody has been advising investors for a long time; His advice to investors in celestial bonds should be invaluable. Don't monopolize the book, if you know what we mean.

PRAYERS: S. Gieo's father is very ill. Three deceased friends (one of them a mother of ten children). A friend very ill. Seven special intentions.