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What Kind Of Wife Are You Looking For?

You said you liked the reprint of Father O'Hara's series on marriage last month. They were practical observations and comment on the "girl question."

Did they change you at all? How about your conduct on "dates" since you read them? Have you figured out for yourself a definite idea of what you and the girl you want to marry must be? How, in order to be that, you and she must act now and every day till the day of marriage?

Perhaps the definite idea of somebody else would help you. You never knew Frederick Ozanam for he lived a century ago. But, save for accidentals like lipstick, "swing" and the automobile, the young men and women of his time were the same, weak and yet idealistic humans you and the girl-friend are today.

Father Richard Deters, a Jesuit at St. Mary's College, Kansas, sends you these words from Ozanam's pen:

I feel within me an empty void, which neither friendship nor study can fill entirely. I know not who will fill this empty space, whether it be God, or one of his creatures. If it be a creature, I trust that she will not come too soon, before I have been able to render myself worthy of her. I trust that she will be endowed with all those necessary external graces so as not to leave room later for disillusionment.

But above all I trust that she will possess solid virtues and a good heart, that she may be worth much more than I am and so draw me upwards rather than drag me downhill, that she may be resolute since I am faint-hearted, that she may be fervent since I am lukewarm, that she may be filled with a sense of compassion so that I may not feel too strongly in her presence my own sense of inferiority. These are my desires, these are my hopes.

Ozanam was a deeply spiritual man, more spiritual and fervent than you. The ardor of his love for God kindled a warm love for his fellow men and resulted in his founding the Society of St. Vincent De Paul. The point is, great as he was, he knew and admitted weakness. He aspired upward, did not wish to be dragged downhill. She must be strong. She must possess solid virtue and a good heart. \*\*\* As Father Deters writes, "Ozanam knew precisely what kind of woman he wanted for a wife. No quick marriage with a fly-by-night for him! That such foresight and wisdom pays is clear from that part of his last will and testament which is addressed to his wife."

To my beloved Amelia, who has been the joy and sunshine of my life, and whose tender care has consoled me during all my afflictions in the past year, I bid a last short farewell, as I do likewise to all earthly things. I thank her, bless her and shall await her in Paradise. There alone I shall be able fully and worthily to requite her love.

Several of you recently asked why there have never been co-eds here. You cited the lecture of some professor in a nearby state who claimed separation of young men and women in education is bad for both. \*\*\* Well, when you see girls all day long, either you waste all your time on them and don't do your work, or you get sick of them and don't like them, or you're an extraordinary man. \*\*\* Notre Dame has fared well as a school for men. With a proverb in mind, she believes she might not fare so well with Betty Co-ed around. "Familiarity breeds contempt." \*\*\* Sadly much more contempt is bred by familiarities!

MEN WANTED: 120 NOTRE DAME STUDENTS INTERESTED IN CATECHETICAL CONGRESS TO PARTICIPATE SATURDAY P.M. (3:30) and SUNDAY (11:00) IN DISCUSSION CLUBS WITH 120 ST. MARY'S GIRLS. REGISTER TONITE IN DILLON, HOWARD OR CAVANAUGH HALLS. REMEMBER? THESE ARE NO DATE BUREAUS BUT CATHOLIC ACTIVITY CENTERS.