

Want a Happy Marriage? (reprint).

Clean Ideals. "The nicest divorce I ever had" is the front-page characterization given by an American princess of the Paris decree that ended a month's debauch with an Egyptian. This sort of legalized prostitution kills everything fine in the heart and if it goes on unchecked at its present rate it will kill everything fine in the American family. No social scourge is more deadly than the frenzied licentious woman who has the approval of society and the law; flee her poisonous breath.

The Catholic Church holds up to us the Blessed Virgin as the ideal of pure womanhood and St. Joseph as the ideal of manly chastity. And to prove that these models are possible of imitation she lays before us the long roll of saints, men and women, who consecrated their chastity to God. To see that these models still have ardent imitators you have only to watch the file of rugged, healthy young men approaching the Communion rail each morning. You love the fight you see in a strong, clean eye. "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God."

Instinct suffices for the mating of animals, because theirs is not a spiritual union. On the subjective side, the most important quest in marriage is the happiness produced by the harmonious blending of spiritual qualities. Have your golden wedding in mind when you pick a wife. Will she be the kind of grandmother the kids will like to romp with, or will her precocious beauty fade so disastrously that you will be afraid to have her picture in the paper on your fiftieth anniversary?

Clean Companionship. Gold and silver lose their lustre when exposed to poisonous fumes. Your soul is more precious than any of these, and no less susceptible to tarnish. Can your mind stay clean and pure in the midst of sordid discussions, filthy stories, foul philosophy, scenes of beastly degradation of the temple of God? Can your conscience keep its fine edge when it trifles with temptation? Can you ask God to preserve your soul free from stain when you rush headlong into danger? Can your ideals remain untarnished when the books and papers and magazines you read are written with the sole purpose of selling by their appeal to the basest human instincts? "Tell me with whom you go and I will tell you what you are."

The Sacraments and Prayer. It was certainly by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost that Pope Pius X opened the tabernacle for daily Communion when he did, for extraordinary means of grace are necessary to meet the extraordinary temptations of this licentious age. Only the state of grace and a right intention are necessary; hence even those whose struggle for purity meets with discouraging falls are not barred from the Holy Table. In addition to Holy Communion, you have at Notre Dame the advantage of daily adoration: close to God you can pour forth your heart to Him as you can nowhere else. Prayer and the Sacraments will give purity; and if one is not satisfied with the progress he is making in his quest of this virtue he should see a priest to find where the defect lies.

An old practical philosopher who has contracted three happy marriages, said recently: "The trouble with young folks nowadays is that when they think about marriage the only thing they have in mind is the one thing they shouldn't have in mind at all; it takes care of itself." (It might be added that the two step-mothers he has brought into his home have made ideal substitutes for the mothers called home by God).

Non-Catholics.

Any non-Catholic wishing to enter an informal class of instructions on the Catholic Faith, see Father Hoff, 309 Dillon, or the Prefect of Religion.

PRAYERS. Deceased: Aunt of Jim Wolff (B-P); Father of Ed Freeman (Anniv); Grandmother of Jim (Dil) and John (Mor) Tracey (Anniv); Grandmother of Tom Carty (Al); Grandmother of L. Michels (Z). Ill: Rev. J. Conroy, S. J., Loyola, Chicago. 6 Spec. Int.