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The Army and Marriage.

"Should I marry before I enter the Army?" Several have posed that question to priests here already. Most of you admit readily that on coldly logical grounds it is best to wait until you return from service.

There is an excellent article treating the problem in America this week by Prof. Norbert Engels. It contains the opinions of many in his classes here and also at St. Mary's. Most with solid reasoning say, "no" though some give personal reasons for "yes" admitting that logic may not be on their side.

Bishop O'Hara in his "Advice to Catholic Recruits" says: "Don't get married before you leave; don't marry in the Army. A year of separation now may save years of separation later on." Several chaplains in service are equally emphatic.

Some youths on purely emotional grounds, others for valid and personal reasons will, on the contrary, vote and act "yes" on the question. Prudence and an unselfish love for the girl require this at least: that you consider all the allied problems and possibilities, immediate separation, economic difficulties, children and the situation on your return. You owe yourself and the girl some fervent prayers and, remember, no situation is hopeless when you're relying on Our Lady's help.

Into Action On Your Knees.

Whether you marry or not before or during military service, you owe yourself at least prayers for a safe return. The Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes, patroness of the sick and afflicted, begins Sunday.

Your answers in Prof. Engels' article showed good sense. Show good sense in your actions preparing for the future.

Wake Up.

Some think they can be careless and shoddy in the matter of honesty, temperance, purity or any other virtue when they're young now and then in later life snap out of it at will. They will be disappointed according to the cold analysis of habit by William James, one of America's foremost psychologists, a non-Catholic. He is not a priest giving you "propaganda", when he says:

"The physiological study of mental conditions is thus the most powerful ally of hortatory ethics. The hell to be endured hereafter, of which theology tells, is no worse than the hell we make for ourselves in this world by habitually fashioning our characters in the wrong way. Could the young but realize how soon they will become mere walking bundles of habits, they would give more heed to their conduct while in the plastic state."

"We are spinning our own fates, good or evil and never to be undone. Every smallest stroke of virtue or of vice leaves its never so little scar. The drunken Rip Van Winkle, in Jefferson's play, excuses himself for every fresh dereliction by saying, 'I won't count this time!' Well! He may not count it, and a kind Heaven may not count it; but it is being counted none the less. Down among his nerve cells and fibers the molecules are counting it, registering and storing it up to be used against him when the next temptation comes. Nothing we ever do is, in strict scientific literalness, wiped out."

NOTE: That previously condemned movie, now in town, has been laundered somewhat and is now in the Legion of Decency's Class B, objectionable in part.

PRAYERS: (deceased) aunt of Dick A'Hearn (Morr); grandfather of Ted MacDonald (Sor); P.H. Coady '93; grandmother of Hubert Johnston (Bro); four friends of Bob Philpott and Bill Harrington (Zahm). Seven special intentions.