

Semi-finals in
Bengal Bouts Tonight.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 13, 1947

Sunday Collection will
be for War Victims.

"I Will"

(Discovered among the marriage instructions of an old pastor.)

Many people are interested in this wedding, you, the bride and groom, your parents, aunts and uncles, and your friends. Yet there is someone else more interested in the wedding than any one else. That's Christ, Our Blessed Lord. He is going to be present at the ceremony tomorrow too.

Now Our Lord will not be a mere onlooker. He will be more intimately bound up with this sacred ceremony than you ever thought. As part of the marriage ritual, the priest asks this question, first of the groom and then of the bride, "Will you take (name), here present, for your lawful (husband) (wife) according to the rite of Holy Mother Church?" Both responded, "I will."

There is a world of meaning behind your "I will." It is a short way for the bride to say to her husband, "I will do all in my power by way of sacrifice, sympathy, love and cooperation to bring happiness to you and to our children, and above all else, I will strive, by way of encouragement, example and prayer, to help you and our children become very virtuous persons that you may also enjoy Eternal Happiness." The husband places the same thought behind his "I will." And after all, isn't this why people marry - to find a greater happiness here on earth because of one another, and to make their salvation more secure through the striving together?

In a sense, you will not only bind yourselves to one another; you will become united to Christ too. For when you say, "I will." you bring Him to your side in a partnership that lasts until death. So at the altar it is really three who join hands and hearts to start up the road to eternal and earthly happiness.

In a way, Christ also says, "I will," -- "I will do all in my power to bring you to a glorious happiness in Heaven through marriage, and I will bring you many joys and support your crosses with you." During the days of your marriage Christ will make you love one another and the children more and more by the words He will whisper to your hearts. He will inspire you when you need light and guidance to bring peace and leadership to your family. By His grace He will do all but carry you along. Whenever you need His help He will be there to give it. You can always trust Him. Thus why should you have any fears in marriage; you should be most confident.

But here is something to remember: Christ will never let you down, but you can let Him down, and when that happens marriage begins to fail. Christ can't force you to accept His inspirations or to do good. He always holds out ample inspiration, encouragement and strength of will to both husband, wife. Make a resolution to never refuse the help of Christ. Where you have seen happiness in Catholic marriage in spite of economic hardships or through sickness and misfortune, all can be attributed to the cooperation of husband and wife with the grace Christ offered them. Where there is cooperation marriage becomes easy because Christ increases His help with each act of cooperation. Since Christ is so much a part of your marriage, you should have a picture of Him in your home to remind you of the confidence you should have in Him.

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of Dick '37 and Frank '38 Delaney; mother of Francis Flannery, '31; grandmother and cousin of Tom Feeney (Dil); Mrs Eugene Leons, aunt of Dick Leons (B-P). Two Special Intentions.