

Bengal Bouts Tonight.
(Adoration 12:30-5:00)

University Of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 6, 1951

Support Your Catholic Press
(Benediction at 5 o'clock)

Novena For A Happy Marriage.

A curious psychological twist in the individualist (spoiled child) is the grand manner of generosity he adopts toward God, Who is the real Giver, at the beginning of Lent when he receives Communion daily the first two weeks. When it takes more gumption than brains to persevere, he rationalizes his mid-Lenten let-down.

It is usually during this let-down period a novena turns the trick, if it is the Novena for a Happy Marriage. While freshman talk more glibly than any other group about marriage and their "steady," they have not reached the stage of planning. Sophomores, a large percentage of them informally engaged, are taking the matter as wise fools. Juniors, much closer to reality, are somewhat disillusioned and fluctuate between bright hope and dark despair. Seniors count their chicken feed and keep right on feeding the chickens.

Our advice to all four groups is to take it on faith that prayer is essential to happiness in marriage. Before and between reveille and taps two persistent questions will be whippersnappers: "Should I get married? . . . When?" Only a first-rate fool will make his decision without thinking and praying.

Juvenile Delinquent Canonized.

The Novena for Vocations ends tomorrow, the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, "Doctor Angelicus," patron of Christian learning. . . Thursday, feast day of St. John of God, the Novena for A Happy Marriage begins.

Father Thomas Lahay's "Bits Out of Life," Ave Maria, remarks that St. John of God was what might be called a juvenile delinquent in his day and not much better as he grew up. At the age of 40 life had not yet begun. He was shiftless, destitute, migratory, but with one saving memory--the memory of his saintly mother. This memory started his long struggle back to what he knew his mother wanted him to be.

Renting a tottering old house, John welcomed the sick who lay abandoned on the streets of Spain's Granada. As his work progressed, so did his sanctity. . . Now each year, March 8, the Catholic world venerates St. John of God, whose memory of his saintly mother brought him back to God.

During this novena beg God and Mary and St. Joseph for the favor of a good wife, a wife who will be the saintly mother of your children. On the other hand, ask for the grace to make her a good husband. St. Joseph was head of the holiest and happiest Family the world has ever known. Address this novena to him. Because March 19, his feast day, comes during Holy Week, the celebration of the feast will be April 3. Prayers to St. Joseph and his Litany will be found in the ND Prayer Book, page 19.

What One Bad Fish Can Do.

One rotting fish in a barrel of fish will make the whole mess smell to high heaven. A fish-lover may rashly judge all the fish are decaying. . . That's one way non-Catholics misjudge the Church, or it is another way outsiders misjudge Notre Dame students, particularly Notre Dame students who ride city buses. . . Whittling all this down to the point--it takes only one student with smutty vocabulary to make all of you look bad. Twice this year complaints have come to the Bulletin about the foul language and delayed-adolescent wolf howls of a few billingsgate fish-eaters. . . Why don't the clean-minded and the clean-spoken do something about this? Take action! Or are you outnumbered.

Prayers: (deceased) father of George Kashmor, '49; grandfather of Jim Mutscheller (Wa); two cousins of Robert Davidson--one killed other injured; Joseph Di Giorgis.