

Prayers: (deceased) grand-  
father of Dave Fox; mother  
Berny McClorey (St. Ed's).

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
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Also deceased: Joseph Dohan,  
'07; William J. Daly, '22.  
(Soph. Retreat this weekend.)

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Usual Clashes.

Continuing Tuesday's Bulletin on the mixed marriage problem. From the Homiletic and Pastoral Review, writes Father Sheerin: Dr. Mace points out that Church loyalties and family loyalties will usually clash, and that tensions with in-laws are often acute. Young people planning marriage usually realize that their marital happiness is more important than mothers-in-laws and all other relatives combined.

Yet it is not easy for young people, especially young brides, to make a complete break as soon as an offending in-law begins to insult the religious beliefs of the other spouse--Catholic or non-Catholic. The young married couple realize full well the danger from in-laws, yet the early ties of family life are strong and the young wife especially likes to cling to mother. Blood is thicker than water.

"Upbringing Of The Child."

This is Dr. Mace's final reason for his attitude against mixed marriages. He claims that this is generally recognized to be the most serious of all causes of trouble. Now, it is certainly true that the ordinary non-Catholic, holding strongly to his or her own belief, doesn't take kindly to the child's education and upbringing in the Catholic religion.

The Bulletin adds this. If the mother is the non-Catholic, the day will surely come when her own flesh and blood will begin to ask simple questions: "Mother, why don't you go to Mass. . . Why don't you ever go to confession? . . . Or, why don't you go to Holy Communion?" What answer will she give? Will she tell the truth and say that she doesn't believe in all that? Or will she tell a lie and live in hypocrisy?

Endangering The Faith Of The Child.

Father Sheerin's comment is that in the eyes of Catholics, and Dr. Mace does not advert so much to this, the upbringing of the children in a mixed marriage presents the big problem of endangering the faith of the child.

Quoting statistics gathered by Rev. John L. Thomas, S.J., who studied the problem of mixed marriages for years. . . According to him 25% of Catholic parents in a mixed marriage lapse from the faith and another 20% become lukewarm--attend to their obligations only sporadically. "Approximately 40% of all children born to such unions are either unbaptized, or baptized in a Protestant sect, or baptized only, that is, they receive no formal schooling in the faith."

Face The Facts.

The Catholic Church in her official position against mixed marriages never presumes that the non-Catholic party is not morally good enough for the Catholic spouse. The Church knows from her hundreds of years of experience with inter-faith marriages that the risks are too perilous not to discourage them by special legislation.

Bear in mind also that the majority of failures in mixed marriages may be charged to the laxity of the Catholic party. God only knows how many non-Catholic partners to a mixed marriage have been deterred from entering the Church by the laxity, the inconsistency, of a Catholic mate; how many non-Catholics have failed to keep their promise to rear the children as Catholics because they saw no fruits of the faith in the Catholic spouse. And the man who rejects the advice of the Church in this matter is usually lax in his religion. Like all serious problems, this problem of falling in love with a non-Catholic is best averted and cured by being honest with oneself in the presence of God during the time of prayer. It is fatal folly to ignore divine help and say: "I'll work this thing out by myself." Seek advice and counsel.