

Why The Novena To St. Joseph

Of late there's been much talk on campus of marriage. Seniors termed the institute a great success. It's a subject that interests, or should interest, everyone. And the institute provided much learning, and provoked valuable discussion on the various phases involved -- selecting a partner, sanity and sex in marriage, marriage as a sacrament, children, love, and the perils and pitfalls that lie in wait for the unwary. Now, remembering the words of our Lord, "Without Me you can do nothing," we take time out to pray for the grace and the gift of a Happy Marriage. Without God's grace our paltry human effort and information won't amount to much.

Remember: it takes three to get married -- you, that wonderful girl, and God. Leave any one out, and the pact is without meaning, has no objective, and falls flat. Marriage, you know, is God's idea. He created us, laid down the rules for that way of life, and promised Heaven to any couple who abides by those rules. There's only one criterion for any really successful marriage -- the salvation of your soul through this particular vocation. And only a wife who will help you into Heaven is worth considering. Right?

It's a very important step, then -- this business of getting married. Indeed, it calls for all the assistance available. And so, having picked up some helpful hints from human sources (and they were good), we now turn to Heaven for the grace of God, without which we can do nothing.

It is only natural that we turn to St. Joseph in this instance. Here was a family man, a helpful, practical sort, possessed of much wisdom and sanctity -- and the perfect spouse. His home was a happy one; his family, holy. And from this family circle he went off to Heaven -- just as most of us hope to do someday. There was little luxury, but much love, and understanding, and patience, and self-sacrifice -- the very elements that you must acquire, if you ever hope to make of your house a happy home, and a holy place in which to spend your life, and save your soul.

When you consider the importance and the objective of marriage in this light, well, it doesn't really matter much whether the girl's a brunette, or blond, or redhead! And the glamorous fact that she uses "Pond's" may not be the total answer to your searching efforts, either!

We think it's not too early at all to start praying now for this great blessing. If you are serious about marrying a good wife, someday, you'll go along with us in this novena to St. Joseph. Go to him in this matter. He knows what we need most in this kind of life to get us and our families into Heaven -- the ultimate goal of every Christian marriage. And one more thing -- you might just be humble enough to want to pray to St. Joseph for the grace to be a good husband! That's why we suggest you offer your Mass, Communion, and Rosary in his honor until his Feast Day for these important graces.

PRAYERS REQUESTED: Again, this past Friday morning, suddenly, and without warning, the Hand of God reached quietly and quickly into the Notre Dame family to lead another priest into eternity. Father Joseph Muckenthaler, CSC, arose at 5 as usual, devoted the next hour to meditation and his Breviary, celebrated Mass at 6:30, made his usual half-hour of Thanksgiving, took a light breakfast, and returned to his room to die. We found him with his Rosary in his hands. What a wonderful preparation for death! His Mass was his Viaticum. Quiet, and pious, and faithful to his work, here was a man who gave substance to the Biblical adage: "As a man lives, so shall he die." We commend his faithful soul to God, and to the Blessed Mother whom he served all the years of his priesthood. Pray that your own going may be so fortunate. R.I.P.