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Seek Counsel.

It is far better, especially for a Catholic, for whom marriage is a life contract to seek counsel before marriage than to retain counsel after marriage. And remember that you may have to seek it; those best able to give it are so well experienced with the insanity of infatuation that they regard the volunteering of counsel as the suicide of friendship. Those best able to give it are those who know marriage, those who know you, and those who know the girl: Line them up in this fashion:

1. Your father. You may feel that he doesn't know you and that he isn't up with the times. It is well for you to have the counsel of someone who is not up with the times, whose philosophy of life was generating in more God-fearing times. Your father knows a lot about marriage; he knows enough to have made you the success you believe yourself to be. For once in your life take him into your confidence, even if he is self-conscious about it. He knew enough to pick a good mother for you.
2. Your mother. After a sermon on marriage an old lady said to the young missionary: "Father, I wish I knew as little about marriage as you do." If your father knows a lot about marriage, your mother knows ten times more, because while he finds distraction in business she stays at home and makes the home. And it takes a woman to size up a woman. Introduce the girl to your mother, and if she says, "Thumbs down," let it be so. Maybe you will live to learn by what intuition she picked the flaw; but for the time being take it on faith. And go over your expense account with your mother. She knows how much it ought to cost to win a good wife, and how much to make a home. Seventy-five per cent of the students at Notre Dame are here because their mothers managed the household budget and made it cover their education.
3. Your confessor. All kidding aside, he knows more about marriage than a man who has had five wives. Such a man knows five things that can wreck marriage; the priest knows a hundred or a thousand. Sooner or later the problems come to the priest: it is wise to make it sooner.
4. Your pal. His eyes are your eyes, but when your heart is swayed with emotion, he is free. Lots of friendships are broken when a pal tries to ward off a mistake. Make him give you his judgment, and believe him, even though it costs you the girl. There are many girls, but few pals.
5. Her kid brother. Win his confidence. You can learn more about her disposition from five minutes with him than you can in five years of courtship.

Books are companions, the same as people are. Not all the wise men in the world move in your small circle. Much has been written on marriage, some of it true, some false. You will find sound counsel in the Introduction to a Devout Life, by St. Francis de Sales, in You and Yours, by Father Scott, and in The Home World, by Father Doyle. Marriage and Parenthood, by Gerard, should also be read by every Catholic contemplating matrimony. Tie up to sound principles; they see you through to the end.

How Come No Rec?

The Communion graph for Lent last year shows March 17 as the lowest day in Lent. The same holds true for the year before and the year before that and as many years as there are statistics for. The same thing appears in the Communion graph of Santa Clara University, which appears in their religious survey. When the Irish in America learn to spiritualize the feast of their Apostle they may get a day in which to do it. In the basement chapel tomorrow morning, if it runs true to form, you will find in abundance of Germans, Poles, Bohemians, Spaniards, Chinese, Syrians, French, Italians -- everything but Irish.