
The Novena Starts Saturday.

There is one thing certain about Catholic marriage: when you get married you stay put. You can't follow the world's system of swapping wives every time you take a notion. That is why it is essential that you take every precaution not to get stung when you pick the lady who is to be yours until death.

Prayer not only aids in the selection of a wife; it obtains for you the graces necessary to a difficult state of life. You can lose your soul by yourself, and you are certainly out of luck if you marry a woman who will drag you down to hell.

The Novena to St. Joseph for the grace of a happy marriage begins Saturday and ends the day before the feast. The Bulletins on preparation for marriage will begin tomorrow. (These, as you were told the other day, are a reprint from two and three years ago. One thousand copies will be printed, but they will not be available for distribution until the series ends.)

The New Questionnaire.

The questionnaire for the new Religious Survey will be ready in a few days. If you have any suggestions on questions for this year there is still time to submit them. This announcement is made in advance because there will be no opportunity for pep notes on the Bulletin next week, and it is essential to the success of the Survey that the bulk of the answers come in early.

General Confession.

Scrupulous persons will kindly pass over this item; they always want to be making general confessions, and a general confession generally does such a penitent more harm than good. And with this preliminary observation out of the way we may pass to some general considerations on the subject.

A general confession is necessary whenever a penitent knows for certain that one or more confession(s) of his past life have been bad. A confession is bad if the penitent wilfully conceals a mortal sin or lacks dispositions necessary to the fruitful reception of the Sacrament, such as purpose of amendment, or willingness to make restitution for damage done to another's property or reputation. If a penitent has on his conscience such a bad confession he must repeat that confession and any other confessions that have taken place meanwhile, telling how often he has been guilty of sacrilegious reception of Penance, Holy Communion, or any other sacrament.

A general confession is useful whenever a person is about to assume a new state or condition of life. Such conditions may be entrance into marriage or religious life, graduation from college, the embarking on a career, or a "conversion," by which is meant the turning of the heart to God in a new manner, to undertake a wiser, more thorough, and more understanding service of Him. Its motive should be mainly to thank God for all He has done for the penitent, particularly in keeping him out of sin and warding off the consequences of sin.

How is a general confession made? The best way to make it is to leave it to the priest. It need cause the penitent no worry or agitation of spirit. A bit of reflection on his past life will give him a general idea of his violations of the Commandments, and the questioning of an experienced confessor will set his fears at rest. Lent is a time for serious thought, and a good time for a general confession.

Prayers.

Robert Alge was called home Tuesday by the death of his father. Spike McAdams is laid up at home with a bad abscess. An Ursuline nun is very ill with pneumonia.