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Why PRAY For A Happy Marriage?

God knows you need to. If whisky can wreck your life, a woman can do it ten times as fast. You can take the Keeley Cure for drink but not even Scripture can suggest a cure for a brawling wife. There is too much happiness at stake in the life-long union of marriage for you to enter it haphazard. God has provided His grace to enlighten and strengthen you, and the Church has offered means to assist you to choose wisely. To reject the grace of God and the counsels of the Church, even when you fulfill the letter of her laws, is to court disaster.

What makes you think you have the right to ask a good girl to be your wife? You may have a good job in prospect, or you may have a rich aunt with asthma, but if you think money is the basis of a happy marriage read one day's alimony news. You may feel that there is an all-consuming love between you that will surmount any obstacle; that is just what that kind of love is -- all-consuming. It consumes gas, it consumes liquor, it consumes your bank roll, it consumes your happiness. The head you bring to the altar should not be dizzy with infatuation but sober with faith and humility. You may think you are quite a catch, with your good looks, your winning personality, your apodictical line; your brains and beauty may have the girls at your feet, but the girl who makes the catch will want to change bait before the next cast when she discovers she has married a hero-worshipper whose hero is himself.

What makes you feel confident that your own judgment suffices in choosing a partner of joys and sorrows? Your own judgment it must be, in last analysis, but Solomon warns us that "it is better to meet a bear robbed of its whelps than a fool trusting in his own folly." God has given you natural and supernatural means to aid your judgment. God gives you counsellors -- your father, your mother, your sister, your pastor; each can do his part to aid your judgment. God gives you grace to enlighten your mind to choose wisely, and to strengthen your will to bear up under the sacrifices necessary in marriage. Despise them at your own risk.

After all, love is a matter of sacrifice, not of sentimentality. "He that keepeth My commandments, He it is that loveth Me," said Our Blessed Lord; and love is not love unless it shows itself in sacrifice. As love is mutual, so must sacrifice be mutual. Give all to the girl and she will take it -- and ask for more. St. Joseph, the model husband, was also a model of sacrifice; the Blessed Virgin, his divinely-appointed spouse, was equally a model of sacrifice; perfect sacrifice and the grace of God made this the perfect model of married life, The Holy Family.

How To Make The Novena.

Receive Holy Communion and say the Litany of St. Joseph daily for the nine days. You will find the Litany in the Little Purple Prayer Book (and in saying the Litany, remember the intentions of Bishop Chartrand, whose generosity has supplied us with these books for more than a decade).

The Hitch.

According to chapels, the following losses in Holy Communions were reported for the first twelve week days of Lent (compared with the same days last Lent): Sorin, 31; Freshman, 25; Basement, 21; Lyons, 13; Sophomore, 8; Badin, 6; Walsh, 5. The following Halls reported gains: Morrissey, 14; Corby, 5; Howard, 3.

Prayers.

Mansel Miller is in the Hospital; Robert Huetz, former member of the class of '29, have his ear drum removed tomorrow morning; an uncle of Jerome Holland died last week; Hobart Shean's brother died Saturday.