

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 4, 1931

Benediction tonight
7:00 and 7:30

Fifty Boys Courted Fifty Girls.

The fifty boys were students here a few years ago. All of them were graduated between the years 1918 and 1925. They constitute 19% of the alumni of those years who have returned questionnaires in the Religious Survey. What is distinctive of them is that they courted non-Catholic girls. Their romances are close enough to us to be of great interest.

These fifty boys married these fifty girls. Twenty-one of the marriages were what we call mixed marriages, that is, the bride was a non-Catholic at the time of marriage. The other twenty-nine married converts - their brides came into the Church before marriage or at the time of marriage.

Three of the brides have become Catholics since marriage. That leaves eighteen mixed marriages for investigation. (And before we leave the matter we should say that it is quite likely that these eighteen told some priest before marriage that the girl would certainly come into the Church after marriage.)

Eight of these men now receive the Sacraments monthly - none of them oftener than once a month; one receives 4-6 times a year, one 6 times a year, one 4 times a year, two 3 times, and three twice a year. One has not received since last March, and the other two are not receiving the Sacraments at all. Of the latter two, one states that he is in favor of mixed marriage in general, but that it might not work out well in all cases.

Sixty-eight per cent of all the alumni receive at least monthly; 44% of these men reach that average. Twenty-six per cent of all alumni receive at least weekly; none of these men are that devout. -- On the other test questions, the Catholic schooling and the sacramental practices of the children, it is too early to look for data. It might be stated, however, for the benefit of those interested, that the questionnaires of eighteen mixed marriage cases covering 47 years previous to 1918, only two alumni had provided full Catholic schooling for their children (six others, one-third of the total, had no children).

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Let no non-Catholic reader take umbrage at these or any other Catholic considerations on mixed marriage. The Catholic Church holds nothing against any individual for his honest dissenting views; on the contrary, she holds that he must follow his conscience - that is the law of reason. But she recognizes mixed marriage as a danger to the faith of Catholics - both to Catholic partners and their children. She has the most sincere respect for non-Catholic partners of Catholics who respect the promises they make not to interfere with the religion of the Catholic partner and to aid in the Catholic education of the children. But she must also recognize the fact that only too often those promises are disregarded, and that, consequently, mixed marriage is a danger to the faith.

Add "Masses Said - 9" To Your Christmas Bouquet.

Readers who intend to fill out a spiritual bouquet for Christmas for their parents or for others may add a Novena of Masses to their cards, PROVIDED these persons receive Holy Communion on next Tuesday, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and have the intention of making the Novena for Christmas (it begins the day after the feast.) A Novena of Masses will be said according to this intention on the nine days following the feast, and since no stipend will be accepted for these Masses, the infinite fruit of them may be applied without diminution to all who meet this requirement.

PRAYERS: The basketball team, which begins its season tonight, will appreciate your spiritual help. Chas. Bringardner's grandmother died Tuesday. An uncle of Frank Donahue died recently. Four special intentions.