

Navena for Fathers
Begins Monday

University of Notre Dame
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American Apologetics I.

The Federal Council on Mixed Marriage.

The New York Times gives us the text of four recommendations of the Federal Council of Churches in the matter of mixed marriages. They were drawn up, it is said, before the Roman decree of February 5 requiring the signing of an additional promise by Catholic and Protestant applicants for a mixed marriage. They read as follows:

"Where the persons contemplating marriage are members of different communions nearly related in doctrine or polity, they may well be advised by their respective pastors to settle the question before marriage by agreeing to attend together one of the other of their churches, or even a third church, and to bring up their children in it.

"Where only one of the persons is a member of a church of the Protestant group and the religious differences are profound, such persons should be advised to consider the situation with great seriousness, in all its aspects, and to reach an agreement before marriage.

"Where intolerable conditions are imposed by either church in which membership is held, persons contemplating a mixed marriage should be advised not to enter it. The committee on marriages and the home protests earnestly against the requirement by any church that the children of mixed marriages should be pledged to that church.

"Where conferences in the churches interested in the question arising from mixed marriages can be arranged, such conferences should be welcomed with a view to safeguarding the sanctity of marriage and the spiritual welfare of the home."

The Federal Council then goes on to tell what it thinks of the Catholic position on mixed marriage: "No religious body which confesses itself Christian can tolerate the imposition upon one of its own members of the requirements of another religious body by which the religious scruples of that member are aroused, or action repugnant to reason and conscience is forced upon him by an authority which he does not acknowledge.

"For example, if one of the partners to a mixed marriage submits to the dictation of such an authority and promises that his children will be brought up in a faith which he does not share, reason and conscience are offended, the seeds of future discord are sowed at the very outset of married life, and the prospect of true marriage, with conjunction of mind and soul, becomes remote. Or if either partner enters upon the union as a propagandist, determined through the intimacies of marriage to subvert the religious faith of the other, disaster is imminent."

When the Federal Council indorsed birth control, a couple of years ago, it relieved those who look to it for guidance in morals (if any) of any responsibility to God for the use of the God-given faculty of procreating children. It now relieves these same people (if they have any children) of any responsibility to God for the spiritual training of their offspring. Their use of the term, "true marriage," is naive.

From one point of view we wish them luck. If they can keep Protestants from marrying Catholics, they will do a service to the souls of many unborn children. "No religion" is the condition of 65% of the children born to mixed marriages in which one of the parties is a Catholic and the other a Protestant; however, when both parents are Protestants, but of different denominations, 85% of the children have no religion. Old-fashioned Protestantism restrained much immorality; modernism and religious indifference have opened the floodgates of immorality.

PRAYERS: Deceased - Wm. Newberry's father; the father of Frank Kiernan, ex-'18; a relative of C.W. Troost; a friend. Ill - Jas. Carmody's father and mother; Tom Grimes's grandfather; a cousin of Ray Broderick. A thanksgiving. Four special intentions.