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Why Make The Novena For a Happy Marriage?

UTOPIA! That's what you expect your marriage to be. Baloney! That's what it turns out to be when the emotions rule instead of the head.

Listen to what your older brothers have learned by experience. The alumni, asked to name the chief source of discord in their married life, made mention of the following:

Financial worries; the discipline of the children; impatience; jealousy; temper; differences of opinion; clash of temperaments; irritation of partner's feelings; selfishness; difference of religion; birth control; bridge; drinking; "in-laws"; unthriftiness; "my desire to go out with the boys"; misunderstandings; airplanes; depression; being late to meals; absence in the evening; illness; outside activities; laziness; "I read mystery stories"; too much ego; personal pride; "the amount I eat"; vanity; mistrust; lack of regular hours; procrastination; material things; stubbornness; "the condition of my den"; the relative merits of St. Mary's, Notre Dame, and Georgetown; son's disobedience; difference in tempers; "my wife's lack of a sense of humor."

That's only part of the list, of course, but it is something for you to start on. Take that last item, for instance. Suppose you didn't learn until after the wedding that your wife laughed at your jokes during courtship only to land you; that for the rest of your life the merry quips with which you used to convulse the boys in Sorin would be met across the table with a stony stare. And that's not the half of it. When you stop to consider that even if you lack a sense of humor yourself your wife will have to have one in order to stand your company, you will realize that the condition presents woeful possibilities.

But let that one pass. See how many times the list presents, under one form or another, hypertrophy of the ego. Fully a dozen of the sources of discord mentioned above can be reduced directly to exaggerated self-esteem. Do you think that the girl is going to think as well of you as you think of yourself - particularly when your worship of yourself makes you neglect to pay her the little compliments her dear heart craves? Think that one over. Then ponder over these remarks:

"Should my pet magazines and papers be in the living room?"

"Lack of discipline of the children, who are allowed to have their own way in my absence."

"My mother-in-law lives with us. Enough said. She is also a non-Catholic; my wife is a convert."

"In-laws. Where is the girl of Irish descent who doesn't insist her forbears were all high kings, her folks all perfect, and her husband's folks all other-side-of-the-track good-for-nothings?"

"My wife always wants to go to see her mother."

"What happened to the button on my shirt?"

The Novena begins Saturday. Don't you think it would be wise to make it?

Prayers.

Decensed: Msgr. McCarthy, Vicar General, and Msgr. O'Connell, Chancellor, both of the diocese of Sioux City; an uncle of Leo Schiavone, '32. Ill: Ed Mulvihill's grandfather; a relative of Joe McCabe. Five special intentions.