

University of Notre Dame  
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The Novena - Tomorrow - is to St. Joseph.

A daily prayer to St. Joseph and nine Holy Communions constitute the Novena for a Happy Marriage. The Litany of St. Joseph is a good prayer to say. The prayers cannot be said publicly, because Passion Sunday ends such public prayers, and Passion Sunday is the last day of the Novena. (The feast is March 19.)

More Reasons for the Novena.

"What effects would you want to avoid if you married again?" the married alumni were asked in their Religious Survey. Meditate on the reply of one man:

"Do you mean in the woman? If you do, no man knows a woman's defects until he marries her."

That's experience talking, remember. Don't you think it would be wise to enlist the aid of St. Joseph, who was the head of the Holy Family, which was the happiest family that ever lived on earth? Or do you want to leave it all to blind love?

Here is more wisdom gained from experience:

"I would want a laundry that is less destructive."

"I would not marry a non-Catholic. I cannot emphasize this too strongly."

"I would want a Catholic girl, although I am absolutely happy with a Protestant wife."

"I'm quite satisfied at present, but if there had to be another she would have to be an orphan, uneducated."

"I would not choose a wife whose home is several thousand miles from mine."

"A big wedding. I'd steal away quietly and have it over with."

That's not all. Look at the miscellaneous list of things to be avoided: A nagging woman; an excitable temperament; extravagance; ignorance of finances; shallowness, crudeness, meanness; unwillingness to sacrifice for religion; chronic illness; sarcasm; "one who smokes or drinks"; tardiness; positiveness; lack of love or consideration. One poor fellow states tersely: "I married the wrong woman."

Is marriage, then, a complete failure? By no means. Of the 270 married men who answered the question on the success of their married life, 91% admit success. Two of the remainder are divorced, and seven are separated - two of these because of the depression, they say.

Notre Dame helped in the majority of cases; 72% say that the school aided them in choosing a good wife. Of these, 47 were kept from mixed marriage by their instruction at school, 19 met their wives here or at St. Mary's, 43 mentioned prayer and high ideals as the University's contribution to their philosophy of marriage, and 64 mentioned miscellaneous points of assistance. "Notre Dame taught me common sense," one man says. That man got a great deal out of Notre Dame if he got that. PRAYERS: Deceased - Judge Kickham Scanlon's wife; the mother of Frank Kelley, '28; the father of Frank Nulty, '32. Ill - Miss Chastain, a nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital; Wm. Torrey (pleurisy and pneumonia); James Griffin and John Hunt; three friends of students (one near death). Three special intentions.