

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
March 15, 1934

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A Letter on Marriage.

A missionary has furnished the Bulletin with a copy of the following letter, which came to him during "Men's Week" of a mission he was conducting:

"Dear Father:

I wanted to get up to see you, but I could not make it. I have a little baby and he has a bad cold, so I was afraid to take him out in the bad weather we had all week. In order that I might make the mission last week, a neighbor took care of him; and I hate to ask her to bother with him again. She took care of him every day last week while I went to Mass in the morning and to the Stations of the Cross in the afternoon; my husband took care of him every evening.

"Father, what I want to get at is this: I am married three years. I have the dearest baby boy. I have a plain home and keep it clean - just as clean as I can. I try to have it as pleasant and as happy as possible. What I want to ask you to do for me in your sermons this week at the men's mission is to talk about the man that drinks, mixes with other women, stays out all night, often comes home from work late in the evening, his dinner waiting on the table cold, and comes in night after night intoxicated.

"He makes a big salary and gives me an allowance from it. The rest he spends on his friends. I get along all right with the money he gives me, although there are lots of pretty things I could buy for the home with the money he spends on liquor and other things.

"Father, he has never had a home since his dear mother died. But I have tried to give him the nearest thing to the home he had with his mother. I mean, I am trying my best to do for him all that his dear old Irish mother did. He was the baby of the family, and, like all mothers, she loved him, just as I love him today.

"When he leaves the drink alone he is the best man you could know. But when he drinks he forgets all about his home and family. At times I feel like taking my baby and going so far, far away - but Almighty God has joined us together, and if this is my cross I will surely bear it. Please, Father, do the best you can to make him understand. He promises to be there every night. And please pray for me that God will bless me with a larger family."

There are many things we could say in comment, but we cannot risk spoiling the beauty or detracting from the strength of this plea. All that we ask is that you read it carefully, twice, three times, and examine your conscience on it. The Novena for a Happy Marriage has two objectives:

1. The grace of a good wife;
2. The grace to make her a good husband.

If you have neglected the Novena, at least make a Triduum for these intentions. You have three days remaining before the feast of St. Joseph.

Your Questionnaire.

Fill it out carefully and return it promptly.

PRAYERS: Deceased - an aunt of Clair White. Ill - Rev. Norman Johnson, C.S.C. (appendectomy); Jack Liely's mother; Lawrence Weiss's sister; Dick Flood's father; an uncle of Don Martin. Three special intentions.