

Mass at 6:25, Main Church,
Thurs. for Joseph Thelan's
father. Request of Roches-
ter Club.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 10, 1937.

Start tomorrow, if you
failed today, the Novena
for a Happy Marriage.

Wedding Oration.

(Spoken by FATHER RONALD KNOX at the wedding of the Duke of
Norfolk to the Hon. Lavinia Strutt, London, Jan. 27, 1937.)

The institution of marriage, like all Christian institutions, has its critics who complain of it because it appeals to a possessive instinct in man and woman. A possessive instinct--what a curious notion, if you come to think of it! Surely it is the precise opposite of truth. The whole idea of Christian marriage is not taking something into your possession, but giving something--rather, giving everything, giving yourself. Matrimony is a deed of gift on both sides; it is a contract, not because each is so eager to bind the other, but because both are so eager to bind themselves. They plight themselves till death, not because that is the least assurance either would be content to accept, but because that is the least assurance either would be content to give. True love seeks to externalize itself, and to externalize itself, by transforming a mood of the affections into a fixed purpose of the will.

That is why marriage is the type of a spiritual mystery--the love of Christ for the Church. Our Lord gained nothing for Himself when He came to redeem us; His love gave, expressed itself in sacrifice; and that is the love which He asks of us in return, a love which detaches itself from all hope of favor or reward.

When man and woman wed, they form a new community; a little community of two.

(--Taken from The Catholic Digest for March, 1937.)

Thanks A Million.

"The generous donation of your alumni and students for relief sufferers in Louisville is greatly appreciated. Coming as it did during the early days when needs were great, it helped to care for the many thousands who suffered as a result of the flood." The foregoing is from Regional Director R. F. Allen of the American Red Cross at Louisville, Ky....The following comes to Father O'Hara from Ray Pfeiffer of Louisville on behalf of the Notre Dame Club of Greater Louisville: "I wish to thank you on behalf of our Club and of the people of Louisville for being so generous in forwarding boots and socks and for offering room for refugees during the flood catastrophe....Louisville is in a horrible condition, but, I know, with the help of God, we can build a new City greater than before.."

PRAYERS: (deceased) Judge Wallie Steffen (former coach at Carnegie Tech); father of William Craddock '30. Ill, father of Ed Simonich (Badin); sister of Agnes Sobatzke; sister of Phil Daugherty (St. Eds); grandfather of John Verhoeven (Lyons).

This little community of two has a common welfare that demands small sacrifices, small allowances, small acts of consideration on either part, if it is to be that perfect unit which God means it to be. There is a price to pay; there is a surrender. Can two walk together, except they be agreed--two who are setting their feet on a life's journey, with no parting of the ways? Who is sufficient for these things?

We would not trust you, you would not trust yourselves or each other over this solemn act of surrender, if you had not a talisman to protect you as you set your feet on the road of a married life. You have such a talisman, and its name is love. "Love" says the Imitation of Christ "makes light all burdens, and bears equably all that is unequal; it is not weighed down by the weight it carries, but makes all that is bitter sweet and dainty to the taste." Such is divine Love; and such, too, human love should be. Should be--but what if it should fade?

Lest it should fade; lest the power of the talisman should weaken with the years, Christian marriage supernaturalizes love itself. When our Blessed Lord graced with His Divine Presence a neighbour's wedding feast, He turned water into wine. That is what He does in this sacrament of matrimony. He turns the weak water of human love into the strong wine of divine charity.