

Remember, tomorrow is St. Patrick's day; honor him at Mass and Communion.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
March 16, 1937.

Induction into Third Order  
St. Francis Wed. night,  
M. Church, 8 o'clock. All interested be present.

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No. 4: Neither Lust Nor Infatuation Is Love.  
(Adapted From Previous Bulletins.)

The emotions are God-given gifts, from which spring many good impulses. But God never intended that the emotions should dominate reason.

Emotion generally gives the first impulse to love; but emotions unchecked by reason are filling the divorce courts.

Instinct suffices for the mating of animals, because theirs is not a spiritual union. But instinct alone is not a trustworthy guide in the mating of man and woman.

Someone has well said: "When young folks nowadays approach marriage, they have the only thing in mind that they shouldn't think about at all. That takes care of itself."

Love is essential to marriage. Lust is its greatest enemy. Passion aroused but unsatisfied leads to many of the physical ills of women, including irritability, neurasthenia, premature loss of beauty, sterility, and insanity. On the moral side it so degrades her that she is incapable of instilling virtue into children--if she has any. Familiarities breed much more than contempt.

The effect of uncontrolled passion upon a man is to make him coarse and licentious (like those who guffaw loudly in the dark at a suggestive movie); to incline him to insane jealousy, suspecting in his wife the continuance of the incontinence that marked their courtship.

You will never know what it means to a man until he breaks down and tells you--as many men tell a priest after years of married life--that his life is wrecked because his beastly lack of restraint in courtship made it impossible for him to respect his wife. When a man wants to respect his wife, but cannot, that's tough.

The world takes no account of the evils of courtship. These evils are stock jokes for the funny papers. But neither does the world sanctify marriage as a Sacrament, nor does it hold you to one wife until death. And neither does the world light

a candle or breathe a prayer at your grave. The world knows all about lust but precious little about true love.

Reason, checking your emotions, will tell you that a girl who does not command your respect is not worthy of you. Your own self-respect demands that you shun her company. If you are altogether lacking in self-respect you are doomed to learn by bitter experience that lust is a usurer who sucks blood even to the grave.

Reason will tell you not to marry a girl to reform her. Infatuation may lead you into this stupid experiment, but cold reason argues against it. It doesn't work out.

Reasons will tell you not to run around with young widows, grass or sod. Leave widows to the widowers. They may make perfectly good wives, but they make fools out of freshmen, and bigger fools out of seniors.

Reason will tell you not to choose a girl for her beauty alone. As old Abe Martin well said: "Beauty may not be more than skin-deep, but it's mighty handy for a girl that ain't got no brains."

Reason will tell you not to choose a girl simply because she can dance--unless you're going into vaudeville.

It will tell you not to choose her on her presence at cocktail parties, unless you intend to run a night club.

Reason should influence you to choose a girl who believes that the marriage union is imperishable and as sacred as the union of Christ and His Church;

That it is a union of mutual love and happiness, "the splendid avenue by which little children enter the world to take up life in the antechamber to God's heaven";

That "it is the foundation of that home which God meant to be the training school for morality and holiness, the drill grounds of His little soldiers, the strong fortress against evil and sin."

PRAYERS: (deceased) uncle of Charles Sweeney (How.). Ill. friend of Gene Dolan (How.); sister of B. Marty (Walsh); SPECIAL APPEAL for Professor Myers.