

Lenten Sermon and
Benediction tonight
for all: 6:30 and 7:00

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 10, 1943

Way of the Cross, daily,
except Sat. and Sun.,
Walsh Hall at 5:00

An Answer To Joe About A Happy Marriage.

Dear Joe,

So you disagree with me about the usefulness of nine days of special prayer for a blessed marriage. It's true that the war does delay the marriage of a number of ideal and well-disposed couples, but that's all the more reason for their needing prayer. I am not a little surprised at your saying: "I'm going to war and get shot to pieces, so why worry about marriage". That sounds more like a Jap with his fatalism than a Catholic with his knowledge of God's Providence and the effects He grants to prayer and sacrifice.

Observe, Joe, that this is a Novena for a HAPPY marriage. Prayer is not needed as a preliminary to marriage, but it is necessary for a happy union.

A happy marriage springs from a number of elements. The seeds of this happiness are planted long before a young man and young girl meet and fall in love. There will be joy in marriage where there has been a long preparation for it.

The first condition for a happy marriage is to be found in a true Catholic attitude towards this state of life. You are forming your attitudes towards life now at Notre Dame. I think an enterprising fellow would make a small fortune if he went from one city to another questioning couples before their marriage about the purpose of it all, and printing the survey in book form. If you are getting some wild answers about this question from Catholics in your sessions after night check, what must be the attitude of the hundreds who, with little thought about God and His part in marriage, hurry to the nearest civil minister to be "tied up", as they say.

If a man thinks well of something, he is going to have respect for it. Birth control, child marriage, trial marriage, divorce, abortion, promiscuity in high school and college groups give you a clear picture of the attitude of the world that runs along side you every day. This is even bad paganism. It will take prayer to bring the strong light a young man needs to see the true Catholic attitude through this maze of pagan darkness.

One thing I know with certainty: that if a young man has a high ideal of womanhood, he is usually happy in marriage. He sees women through the eyes of Christ, and because of his higher vision, he has great respect for them. Purity is looking for admirers because men have formed an unchristian attitude toward womanhood. Keep your ideal high - high as the Dome, for there is the woman who will teach you respect for all of her sex. And if you look up, you will meditate, and meditation is prayer.

I have a lot more to say. I had hoped to speak about the need of prayer to overcome selfishness, the one vice which has ruined many marriages. More about that later. You don't have to have a girl to make this Novena. Pray that one will come along, and pray that she and you will have the stuff that makes for happiness.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Martin Lammers, ex '20; Two relatives of Ted Weber (Wal); Friend of Robert Sullivan (O.C.); Father Dennis Behan (St. Marys, Muskegon, Mich.); Friend of Gordon Forester (Cav); Vincent Scully (Mayor of Waterbury, Conn.); Bill Flynn (Calumet City, Ill.- Notre Dame Lay Retreatant for over a decade); Father of Profs. Don, '29 and Devere, '31 Plunkett.