

Your Questions Answered

1. Why Was Rudy Valee, Four Times Married and Divorced, Allowed To Be Married Not Too Long Ago In A Catholic Church By a Priest?

Valee was baptized a Roman Catholic. He was confirmed and made his First Communion. Because therefore he had a Roman Catholic background, he was bound to the Catholic Church Marriage Legislation, according to which, Catholics to be validly married must have the ceremony performed before a Catholic priest and two witnesses. During the course of his career Valee, it is true was much "married" and divorced. On three occasions (not four) Valee entered into invalid unions--purely civil marriages. Two of these marriages ended in divorce and the third one terminated with the death of the other party. Up to the time therefore that Valee married Miss Eleanor Kathleen Norris last year, the actor had never entered into a valid marriage. That left Valee free to marry his present wife, a Catholic also, who had not been previously married.

Some years ago former Mayor Jimmy Walker of New York left his wife and family and gave grave public scandal by running off with another woman, lived with her for a number of years, only to come back to the Sacraments. Before his death Walker made public reparation in the form of a public apology for the grave scandal he had given. He fulfilled his obligation to undo the scandal he had caused by his lapse from the teachings of the Church. Rudy Valee and all other public figures who have similarly scandalized those outside as well as those within the Church have the same obligation to make public reparation for their lapses. There is a God in heaven who will be the final judge of the Valees and other public sinners of our own as well as all time. It is not for the individual to make the judgment as to the sorrow for sin and reparation God demands of those who have once strayed and later return to the fold.

2. Tyrone Power, Married and Divorced, Gets Married in Rome Before the Ink Dries On His Divorce Papers. How Come?

Secular papers more often than not garbel the true facts and thereby give false impressions regarding the marriage legislation of the Church. As in the case of Valee, so too there were many false impressions circulated in the press about the Tyrone Power marriage. Linda Christian, the present wife of Power is a Roman Catholic. She had never been married before. Tyrone Power, like Valee, was baptized a Catholic, made his First Communion, and was bound to the Catholic form of marriage. He had been previously married to Annabella, another Catholic, but their "marriage" was invalid because it was performed before a justice of the peace (lack of proper form), and also because she had been previously "married" to another man. So, before God and man Annabella and Power were never married. In order to do away with the proper marriage a California divorce was obtained, thereby granting Power the civil freedom to marry Linda Christian. Again, we must assume the repentance on the part of Power for a previously attempted marriage.

3. "Ingrid Bergman and Rossellini According to the Papers Are To Have Their Marriage Blessed By the Church. Answer That One!"

Shortly after Bergman's adulterous marriage to Rossellini the report came through the secular press that a Father Merlion O.P., a friend of Rossellini, was pushing plans for a Church reconciliation. The Vatican authorities called in Father Merlion who denied the report as emanating from him. The priest challenged the responsible news agency that spread the false story to retract its story and name the source of its information. The story was retracted, but the news agency could not name the source of the report originally made. We recommend that Catholics read the Catholic press and to form their judgments in such matters as these from Catholic sources who always have the true facts.

Prayers: (Deceased): Harry Scherer, Fred Fambacher; friend of Jack Manning (CAV); grandmother of John Corrigan (Zahm); Ill: Br. Eugene CSC (operation); grandfather of Jack Madden (B-P); John Mangan, University Chauffeur.