

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
March 11, 1953

-----  
Marriage Is Important

Everyone is meant by God to lead a certain kind of life. We call it a vocation, or calling. As Catholics, we believe that God gives indications of that calling together with graces, or helps, to do a good job in that vocation -- so good a job that we shall ultimately merit heaven. That, you know, is the ultimate purpose of every vocation here on earth -- to be happy with God forever in heaven.

If you choose the vocation of marriage -- and most of you will -- it follows that your most important task on earth is to make a success of that marriage. Half the job will be in your hands -- the other half will depend upon your partner. Choose a poor partner, and you'll never survive the trials and difficulties of that state. Even sadder -- you may miss the ultimate goal.

More Than Dreams Involved

It won't be long for many of you before you make such an important decision. Choose a poor mate, and you'll be sorry but once -- and that will be for the rest of your life. We have never had a perfect marriage, because we have never had two perfect people to get married. But an understanding of human nature, and a knowledge of values can be of great help to us. Even with a good partner it's a big job.

The Church, like a shrewd mother who has been rearing children for 1900 years, has some pretty good advice to offer after all Her experience. She notes that:

"Marriage is most sacred because established by God Himself, and most serious because it will bind you together in a relationship so close and so intimate that it will profoundly affect your whole future. That future with its hopes and its disappointments, its successes and its failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden now from your eyes. You know that these elements are mingled in every life, and are to be expected in your own. And so, not knowing what is before you, you take each other for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health until death..."

If this is the kind of bargain we strike in marriage, then the partner we choose had better be a real helpmate -- nothing less. Choosing a partner is the biggest decision you'll ever make in all your life. A young man in love with nothing more than a dream may be in for a rude awakening -- once he walks down the aisle and out into the business of everyday living. Maybe you are acquainted with instances of an unhappy marriage; and you pity the victims. Certainly, you have known many happily married couples, and detected the glow of genuine love that warms their happy existence. It's a matter of two hearts beating as one.

That's why we go to St. Joseph, these days -- to ask his help in making a decision upon which our eternity might well be riding. Say his Litany tonight.

PRAYERS -- Deceased: mother of Ray Kreber of Fisher hall; Edward McLaughlin, friend of Ed Kelly of Alumni hall; aunt of Skip Doyle of Alumni hall; mother of Joseph, '28, and John, '26, Griffin, John T. Casey. Ill; father of Tom Stuber of Dillon; grandmother of Don Carbone; Monsignor Dolan of Long Beach (Calif.); Father Laskowski remains very ill in St. Joseph's Hospital; James Whelan '47.

The Litany of St. Joseph ? You'll find it in the little Notre Dame Prayer Book.