

Today's feast: the  
Solemnity of St. Joseph

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
April 27, 1955

Lost: in Dillon chapel, valu-  
able Irish Rosary. Return to  
Prefect of Religion.

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From The Mailbag

"Dear Father:

"In your discussion on Mixed Marriages, I thought you were a little unfair, citing only the instances where such marriages did not work out too well. It seems to me that you are not too well informed, or you would not have given such a one-sided picture. Aren't you a little narrow-minded on the whole subject?

"You might like to know that I am engaged to a lovely non-Catholic.

Respectfully yours,"

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Reply: The important point to be made is this: the Church forbids mixed marriages. That's the truth; and the Bulletin is striving to be authentic. In effect, you are saying that the Church is narrow-minded; and that's enough to put you on the defensive, if you have any respect for a Teacher divinely protected from any error.

A recent study of mixed marriages over a 10-year period reveals these facts:

- a) Six out of every ten Catholics who contract mixed marriages become lost to the Faith. Four of these attempt marriage outside the Church and are thus lost immediately; while the remaining two grow indifferent, and ultimately cease to practice their Faith altogether.
- b) About one-third of all valid marriages contracted by Catholics in the U.S. are mixed marriages. The trend, instead of decreasing, is on the upswing. Much more surprising and disturbing are the large number of Catholics -- indifferent and nominal ones -- who contract civil marriages before justices of the peace, and even non-Catholic ministers.
- c) About 4% of Catholic marriages end in divorce, while 14% of mixed marriages (3½ times as many) terminate this way.
- d) About 66% of children of mixed marriages are lost to the Catholic Faith.

Now do you understand why the Church justifiably frowns on mixed marriages? It's only your salvation, and the salvation of your children, that the Church has in mind-- that's all. Being broad-minded in hell won't be too flattering to you, either!

#### What Causes Marriage Failures ?

A recent study of 5,000 marriage failures revealed that excessive drinking is a far more dangerous threat (30%) than an interfering mother-in-law (7%). Other factors in the order of their disrupting influence follow excessive drinking in this fashion: infidelity, irresponsibility; radical uncongeniality, in-law trouble, sex-maladjustments, mental illness, religious differences, and financial difficulties.

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PRAYERS: Deceased: grandfather of George Krembs of Dillon; James Corbett, '22; father of Charles Adie of Cavanaugh; father of Tom Maloney of Cavanaugh. Ill: Bob Muhlbaugh (Law); Bill Ahern of Cavanaugh (dying of Lukemia).

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Coming Events -- The Novena for Mother's Day starts this Saturday. Special Spiritual Bouquet cards will be available at the pamphlet racks to record this Novena and then inserted in your letter home... Sign up this week for May Adoration.