

Tonight at 6:45 in Zahm
Chapel: "Participating in
the Mass By Use of Missal."

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 11, 1955

Reminder: Daily Adoration
in the Lady Chapel these
days of May.

This Matter Of Dates

About this time of year, the conversation turns to the coming vacation, to dances, to the beaches, to dates -- and often the sessions in the smoke-filled rooms pose the interesting question: "What is permissible on dates?"

Some, due to ignorance, or possibly to stubborn bad will, uphold many of the liberties encouraged by a wacky and licentious world -- a world that in its pride has made such a mess out of sex, purity, and marriage.

You, fortunately, do not have to take your teaching from a crazy, libertine world and its pitiable, trial-and-error method.

Your questions are solved by that God Who not only created sex and marriage; but also left an Infallible Teacher to guide and help you in the use of sex, in developing the strengthening virtue of purity, and in preparing for a happy marriage. For God destined sex to be used only in marriage. That's His law -- all contemporary quack authorities on compatibility to the contrary notwithstanding.

And outside of marriage, any sexual pleasure alone, or with others, that is deliberately and directly willed, or desired, is grievously sinful, because all use and enjoyment of sex is limited to the marriage state.

All your various questions and situations are covered by that general statement. That does not mean, of course, that all kisses or embraces are sinful. There are those in which real love, self-control and respect for each other as "temples of the Holy Ghost," prevent any sinful and selfish arousal of passion by either.

Purity and obedience to God's law may not be easy for some. But find, if you can, a better prayer or guarantee of a happy marriage -- and that is the dream of every one of you, isn't it?

If you want a fuller discussion for the reasons of, and a positive treatment of, purity, read the back of your Class Schedule or Vicious Circle Sheet, given to you in September. It is called, "Instruction On The Sixth Commandment." Or take a look at the pamphlet racks for treatises that are frank -- much franker than the Bulletin can be. Or you can discuss the matter with your confessor.

A Good Yardstick

How should you act on a date? Well, suppose you had a lovely sister -- the apple of your eye and of your parents -- beautiful, intelligent, with the highest ideals, and with whom you arranged a date for one of your friends. How would you want him to act toward her? How would you want him to treat her? What would you want his attitude to be? Where would you want him to take her? What would you want him to say to her, and how conduct himself with her -- your precious sister?

That's the way for you, yourself, to act on a date, regardless of the opinions of certain "Lay" Cardinals in Alumni, Dillon, and elsewhere on campus.

You asked for an answer. There it is, straight from the shoulder. It comes down to you unchanged, and unmodified from 2000 years of Apostolic teaching -- into our own soft, pleasure-seeking, luxury-loving day. Call it a Spartan formula, if you will; it is still the only Catholic teaching. Anything else is pagan -- strictly pagan.

PRAYERS -- Deceased: uncle of Tom Marshall of Walsh; aunt of Paul Guite of Lyons; uncle and aunt of Ray Bayless, '53. Ill: Julius Leptak (Grad. School). 1 sp. int.