

Tomorrow: Adoration for
Morrissey, Breen-Phillips,
and St. Ed's Halls.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 5, 1958

First Friday coming up--
the day we pray for the
grace of a Happy Death.

How Can We Avoid Mixed Marriages?

A recent Bulletin told you that the Church takes a dim view on mixed marriage because the Catholic party tends to lose his Faith in such alliances. Father Cervantes, S.J., says that "marry your own" is the best advice for anyone, Catholic or non-Catholic, and he cites figures to prove it.

And he adds: "Protect your own by gathering about you family friends of similar backgrounds, interests and ideals." This utterance came after a study of successful families in six large cities who do protect themselves and their children by carefully surrounding their domestic life with persons who have backgrounds, ideals and interests similar to their own. They have a certain few selected family friends who are permitted and encouraged to visit in their homes over periods of years. He adds:

"These selected family friends form a protective filter, or "cocoon", or domestic barricade of social relations against the divergent, divisive and disintegrative influences of the outside world. The more careful couples are about the type of friends they invite into their homes, the more successful they are in their marital and parental relationships."

It's that simple -- the more you confine yourself to a Catholic social atmosphere, the easier it will be for you to find a good potential Catholic wife. But if you rarely meet anyone save non-Catholics, and date them, the chances are you will marry one of them.

We are not saying, or even hinting, that non-Catholics are not good enough for a Catholic partner in marriage. Many of them might be much better than the Catholics you know. The point to be stressed is simply this: that a Catholic needs a Catholic marriage partner to keep him a practicing Catholic. That's the important point.

Query: Does the Church make any provision similar to the "Enoch Arden" law by which, after a certain number of years, a missing person is declared dead, thereby permitting the spouse to re-marry?

Reply: No. In any instance of a prolonged separation, during which there is no information concerning the absent spouse, the Church requires definite proof of death before she will permit another marriage. The reason is obvious: a living spouse, though his whereabouts may be unknown, is an obstacle to another marriage. During the recent World War, many wives had to wait for a long time before the Government was able to provide evidence that their husbands had died. The "missing-in-action" declaration was not sufficient.

Tonight at 6:45: The Lenten Series. Then, the Marriage Institute at 7:30 for Seniors.

Who Needs Mortification?

Two kinds of people do: 1) Sinners--in order to overcome sin; and 2) Saints--that they may not fall into sin. If you doubt this, make sure you hear Father Brennan tonight at the Lenten Series. You can depend upon him for an earful.

PRAYERS: Deceased: father of Sebastian Bonet, '36; friend of Fat Keating of Lyons; uncle of Jim O'Day of Keenan; 3 friends of John and Tom Burns of B-P; father of Howard and John, '37, Gillespie; Leo Cantwell, '26; Martin Sullivan, '25; Rev. Francis Luzny, C.S.C. Ill: Professor Skeeler (Eng.); sister of Tom Mall (O-C); Jim Price, '56; aunt of Bro. Raymond, C.S.C.; daughter of Dr. Edward T. Wilson, '37; son of Milton McAngus (Vetville); sister of Paul Doherty of Dillon; father of Ned MacCarthy of Dillon.