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RELIGIOUS



BULLETIN

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Office of University Ministry
University of Notre Dame

A Tender Touch

...Joan Milani

A tender touch exchanged between a man and a woman often speaks more eloquently than words.

When a young engaged couple enters my office to begin their sacramental preparation for marriage, they sit as close to one another as possible. Frequently one of them will reach out and take the hand of their fiancée and give a reassuring squeeze as they anxiously explore their options for Pre-cana. There is an ardent desire on their part to begin the journey of marriage. They are as joyful as Adam who proclaims in today's first reading: "This one at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh." They believe they have found a "suitable partner" with whom to share their life.



Recently, I witnessed another touch of tenderness. It took place at the funeral mass of a man. When it came time for the handshake of peace, his wife quietly moved across the aisle to extend a sign of peace to her grandchildren and son in law. As she passed by the casket holding her husband's body she gently touched it, bestowing eternal peace. One last touch, a gesture of love.

A touch at the beginning and one at the end, like bookends with volumes of married life in between them.

I wonder if the young couple before me will deepen their love for one another through the myriad experiences of their life together. Will they become like the older couple, a symbol of God's faithful love for us.

Much will depend on whether or not they have chosen a "suitable partner", one who will encourage the development of all their talents, one who will challenge their tendencies to selfishness, one who will help them persevere through suffering. Of equal importance will be whether or not they are a "suitable partner" for their spouse. We need to encourage couples to pray for the grace of both --of choosing and being the "suitable partner".



In Mark's gospel we hear Jesus exhort us to "let no one separate what God has joined". He is talking about divorce. What about those couples for whom divorce becomes a painful reality? Do they not hear or see these words? Do they not believe in a permanent, lifetime commitment?

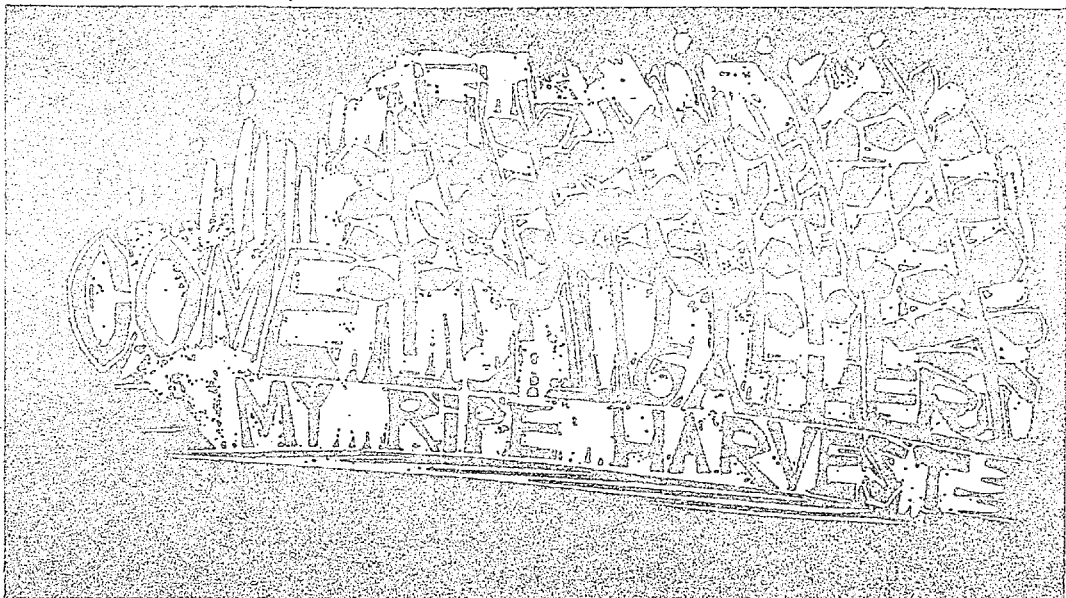
Paula Ripple, who has been involved in ministry with divorced and separated Catholics for thirteen years answers these questions in a recent "Ligourian Magazine". She claims that she hasn't met a divorced person who didn't believe that marriage is forever.

My three years as an advocate in our diocesan marriage tribunal taught me that people seeking annulments had entered marriage with the intent that their bond would be permanent. Only later did they discover they had not chosen a "suitable partner" or they themselves had not been able to be a "suitable partner" for their spouse.

One might conclude that choosing and being a "suitable partner" is all that is important to insure that our marriage will come to a close with the last tender touch from our spouse. It is an essential element but it is not all. In the aforementioned article Paula suggests that, "divorce rates will decrease when people take as much care of their marriage as they do their teeth and their cars."

We need God's grace and the help of our church to make our marriages fruitful signs of God's love. If we are to see "our children's children" as the psalmist hopes for us we need not only Pre-Cana programs to begin our marriage journey or tribunals to help with healing when the bond dissolves but we need an ongoing concern and a care loving embrace like Jesus gives to the children who came to Him.





Gr. Meinrad.

To be better than we are wont . . . that phrase is worth repeating, for on it turns the whole rationale for marriage as Christians are called to live it. If two people can create mutual space wherein they can share pain and joy, forgiveness and understanding, they will also grow up . . . in His grace.

Richard Conklin

I always used to marvel when I would see old couples married for scores of years absorbed in conversation with each other. I used to wonder what they could possibly be discussing after all those years. Hadn't it all been said? I suppose I have just begun to realize that the more shared the more opened. And so the endless possibilities always to be deeper friends and closer lovers.

Dorothea Cordova Engler

The above quotations are taken from Marriage Among Christians A Curious Tradition by James T. Burtchaell c.s.c. , Ave Maria Press.

RESIDENCE COMMUNITY DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

University of Notre Dame
1981-86

RESIDENCE HALL	WEEKDAY MASS	SUNDAY MASS
Alumni	10:30 pm	11:00 am
Bodin	11:00 pm	11:00 pm
Breen-Phillips	10:30 pm	10:30 pm
Carroll	10:30 pm	10:30 pm
Cavanaugh	5:15 pm M-F	11:00 am
	11:00 pm M-Th	10:30 pm
Dillon	11:00 pm	11:00 pm
Farley	11:00 pm	10:30 pm
Fisher	11:00 pm	4:45 pm
Flannery	10:30 pm	10:30 pm
Grace	10:30 pm	10:30 pm
Holy Cross	10:30 pm	10:30 pm
Howard	11:00 pm	10:30 pm
Keenan	4:30 pm	4:30 pm
	11:00 pm	
Lewis	4:30 pm	10:00 pm
Lyons	10:30 pm	4:30 pm
Morrissey	11:00 pm	10:30 pm
Pangborn	10:00 pm	11:30 pm Sat.
		5:00 pm Sun.
Pasquerilla East	10:30 pm	10:00 pm
Pasquerilla West	11:00 pm	10:00 pm
St. Ed's	10:30 pm	10:30 pm
Sorin	11:00 pm	4:15 pm
Stanford	11:00 pm	10:00 pm
Walsh	5:10 pm	10:30 pm
	11:00 pm	
	(at Sorin)	
Zahn	10:30 pm	10:30 pm
O'Hara-Grace		9:30 am
University Village, Married Students		9:30 am
Law School	12:00 noon F, Fall	10:00 pm
	12:00 noon M, W, F	
	(Advent and Lent)	

Respect Life Sunday

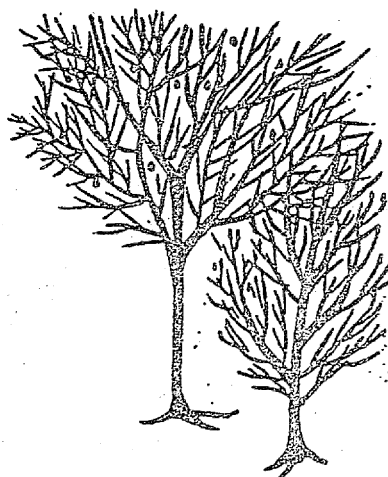
I hold that the life of every fellow human must be respected, preserved and even protected. We must defer to other's lives not simply to gain and repay a like protection from others, nor just to avoid the penalties of the law, nor because every human being has a right to his or her life....we must defer for still another reason: if we deal unjust injury or violent death to others, we shall bring upon ourselves a death of spirit—a violent death. Those who kill, die. And they die when they slay, not later.

—James T. Burtchaell c.s.c.
(taken from Rachael Weeping)

← CAMPUS-WIDE →
PRAYER
FOR
WORLD PEACE
MONDAY OCT. 7, 10:00 P.M.
AT THE
GROTTO

BRING YOUR PRAYERS
BRING YOUR PETITIONS

Join the Notre Dame/St. Mary's community in a celebration of hope!



October 6th is Respect Life Sunday. Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Andre Leveille, Director of University Ministry, at 10:00 in the evening in the Lewis Hall Chapel. All are invited.