

THE VOICE

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

MARCH 27, 1970



Bride And Groom

Marriage Is Human But Mirrors God

By DAWN GIBEAU
NC NEWS SERVICE

ST. PAUL, Minn. — "Marriage," said the theologian, "is a human relationship. It's not a mystical phenomenon."

This from Edward J. Dirkswager Jr., a 31-year-old member of a profession often accused of thinking otherwise — that marriage is some mystical-mythical state which, we reluctantly admit, is entered into by plain, ordinary humans.

But Dirkswager knows better. First, he's married. He and his wife, Dianne, have two children, Marc, 6, and Rebecca, 5.

He also knows better than to short-sell humans. He is, after all a theologian who teaches at the College of St. Thomas here. He is a graduate of Lumen Vitae, the international center for religious education studies located in Brussels.

And Dirkswager has devoted a considerable portion of his professional time to developing what — for lack of a better phrase — we call a "theology of marriage."

But he doesn't seem to mean, by that, a dogma-like set of standards by which married people should judge themselves. Marriage, remember, is human. And that means few marriages are perfect; some are better than others.

Dirkswager views marriage — human imperfections and all — as an accurate

image of God and His relationship to man.

What makes it so is the thing that distinguishes marriage from other human relationships — "the act of sexual communications," said Dirkswager.

"The Old Testament," he said, "seems to be saying, as many in the field of psychology say today, that because sexual expression is so central to our expression of self, it can be the most profound form of human commitment."

And since God is profoundly committed to man — He did create man — we can begin to see why the theologian tends to look at marriage so carefully to help him learn about God.

He's not the first. The Hebrews described God in intensely concrete terms — and often used love, marriage and sexual symbolism to describe God's actions.

Dirkswager points to Genesis, which says man is made in the image of God, and further describes Eve's creation as a "completion" of Adam. To Dirkswager, Genesis implies that "man and woman together form a better image of God than man or woman alone."

And St. Paul used the same imagery to the same end; he described the mutual commitment of husband and wife to illustrate Christ's commitment to man.

And back to the Old Testament: Osee, one of the first Prophets to use marriage to

illustrate God's action, was married to the prostitute Gomer.

"Osee pursues her," said Dirkswager, "to bring her to himself and make a just woman of her." Just as God continually attempts to make imperfect man just and good — to bring man to Himself.

"This becomes a constant theme in the Old Testament to describe how God acts vis-a-vis man," said Dirkswager.

"I wonder if we aren't losing sight of the faithfulness and constancy involved in marriage today," he said. "Is marriage where the spouses get along perfectly any better an image of God than one like Osee's, in which a faithful partner acts lovingly toward the errant one?"

"Being human is being Godlike," he said. "For the married it means a loving response to a difficult situation, respect for each other, responsibility, knowledge of self and the other, faithfulness, openness, honesty and acceptance."

"These are the qualities that contribute 'dialogue,'" said Dirkswager.

"We know intuitively when we have touched someone deeply, when a close relationship exists," he said. "That's what we use the word 'dialogue' to express."

Biblical writers called it "covenant." "To them," said Dirkswager, "man's relation to God is a covenant, and man's relation to woman is a covenant."



Love With No Love Of God Is Selfish

The basic error of mankind has been to assume that only two are needed for love: you and I, or society and I, or humanity and I. Really it takes three, self, another self, and God: you, and I, and God.

Love of self without love of God is selfishness; love of neighbor without love of God usually embraces only those who are pleasing to us, not those who are hateful.

If only two love, love dies of exhaustion, because one can only give so much of oneself. Love is triune, or it dies. It requires three virtues: faith, hope, and charity, which intertwine, purify, and regenerate each other.

To believe in God is to throw ourselves into His arms; to hope in Him is to rest in His heart in patience amidst trials and tribulations; to love Him is to be with Him through a participation of His Divine nature through grace.

Love of self, love of neighbor, and love of God go together. When they are separated all love is extinguished.

God never intended that the "I" and the "Thou" should be separated. God is no obstacle to the full enjoyment of self, nor is He a competitor against the love of

neighbor.

Such love is God in pilgrimage. But if we would seek the reason why it takes three to make love, we must look into the heart of God Himself. Human love has reached its peak when it says: "I love you, because God gave you to me."

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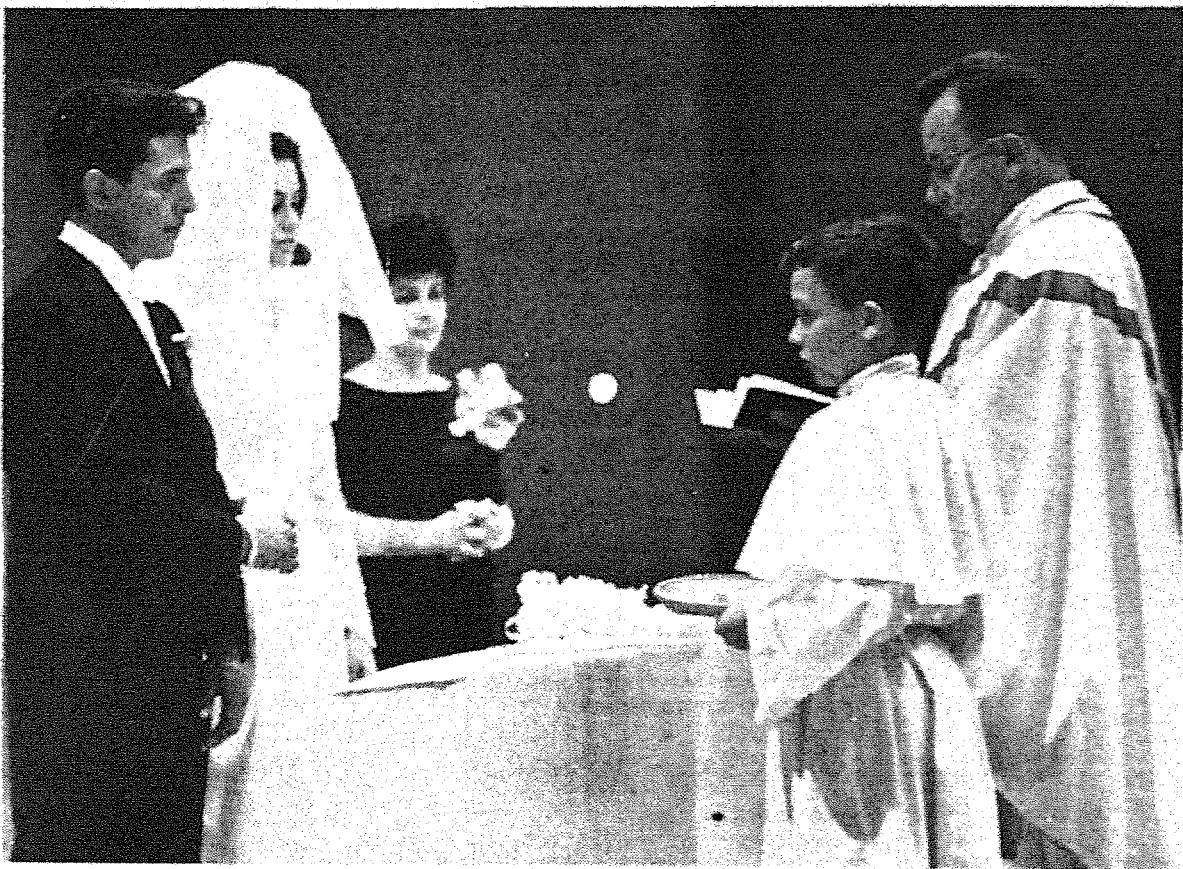
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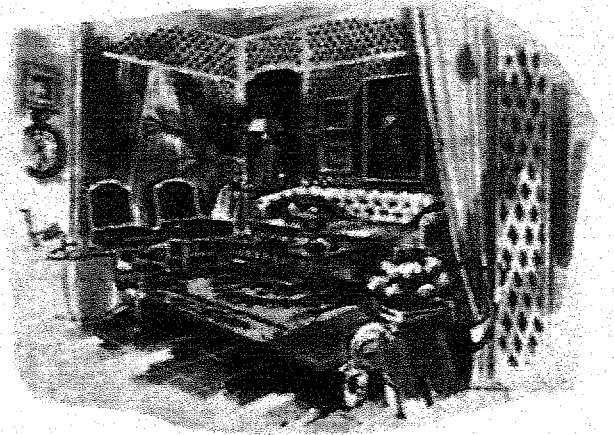
Christian Family Upholds Society

However united the Christian family is, it should not be self-absorbed and isolated from other families, from the civil society around it or from the clergy.

The Christian family is a school for a sense of universality; it is an initiation into humanity; it leads to a universal love, to a vision of the world.

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Planning The Wedding Starts The Dialogue Early

By FATHER JOSEPH M. CHAMPLIN
NC NEWS SERVICE

(Father Champlin is Associate Director of the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy)

Who really calls the shots in courtship and, later, in marriages: the man or the woman?

Or maybe the question ought to be: Who ought to? There you can get a real dialogue going.

My own observation — that of a celibate priest who has spent a dozen years talking with couples about love and marriage — is that in their hearts most women want the man to lead, assume ultimate responsibility and issue the final judgment on significant matters.

Betty Friedan, author of "The Feminine Mystique," and the leaders of the feminist movement would certainly disagree.

But maybe that's the wrong question, too.

What matters these days is not who makes them, but how the decisions are made. And with rare exceptions they follow a period of discussion, persuasion and mind-changing that is usually given the title of "dialogue."

Here, hopefully, even the most outspoken feminist will agree that this is so — and will argue right along with me that this sharing is the best way to go about it.

In this era of freedom and concern for individual identity and personal fulfillment, it would seem that there are few wives — or husbands — who accept silent, submissive roles as partners in marriage.

That's perhaps the long way around to the point, which is this: The earlier the dialogue starts, the better.

The new marriage liturgy, which will soon go into effect, goes a long way toward acknowledging this sharing — and gives young lovers — and older ones — a new opportunity for communication.

Instead of insisting on a narrowly re-

stricted pattern for the wedding service, this revised ritual contains multiple readings, prayers and blessings with a rich variety of optional procedures.

It presumes a couple will sit down with the priest and plan their ceremony, selecting those texts and alternatives which best suit the circumstances.

Steve and Jane, for example, both college graduates, both in their early twenties, after dating steadily for a year become engaged at Christmas.

They call the parish priest almost immediately to reserve Jane's church for an early June wedding. He asks both of them to stop at the rectory for a personal visit to discuss details.

Steve, from a Methodist family, feels a bit uneasy about this encounter with a Roman Catholic clergyman; Jane, while elated with her ring and the promise symbolized by it, still nervously holds Steve's hand during the interview.

After outlining the mechanical necessities which have to be disposed of — records, papers, license, organist, pre-marriage classes, the priest suggests some possibilities open to them for the wedding ceremony itself.

Would you like a nuptial Mass or a service without the Eucharist?

Which of the 28 scriptural readings would you prefer?

How about your parents, a member of the wedding party, a relative or a friend reading the first two scriptural readings?

Would you like an offertory procession with a token gift for the poor, the sign of peace, a different entrance procedure involving your parents more actively?

Steve and Jane look at one another, they are momentarily overwhelmed at the many choices they must make. But inwardly they are flattered by the fact the decisions are theirs alone.

"We had better talk these things over and decide later on."

A new dialogue is under way.

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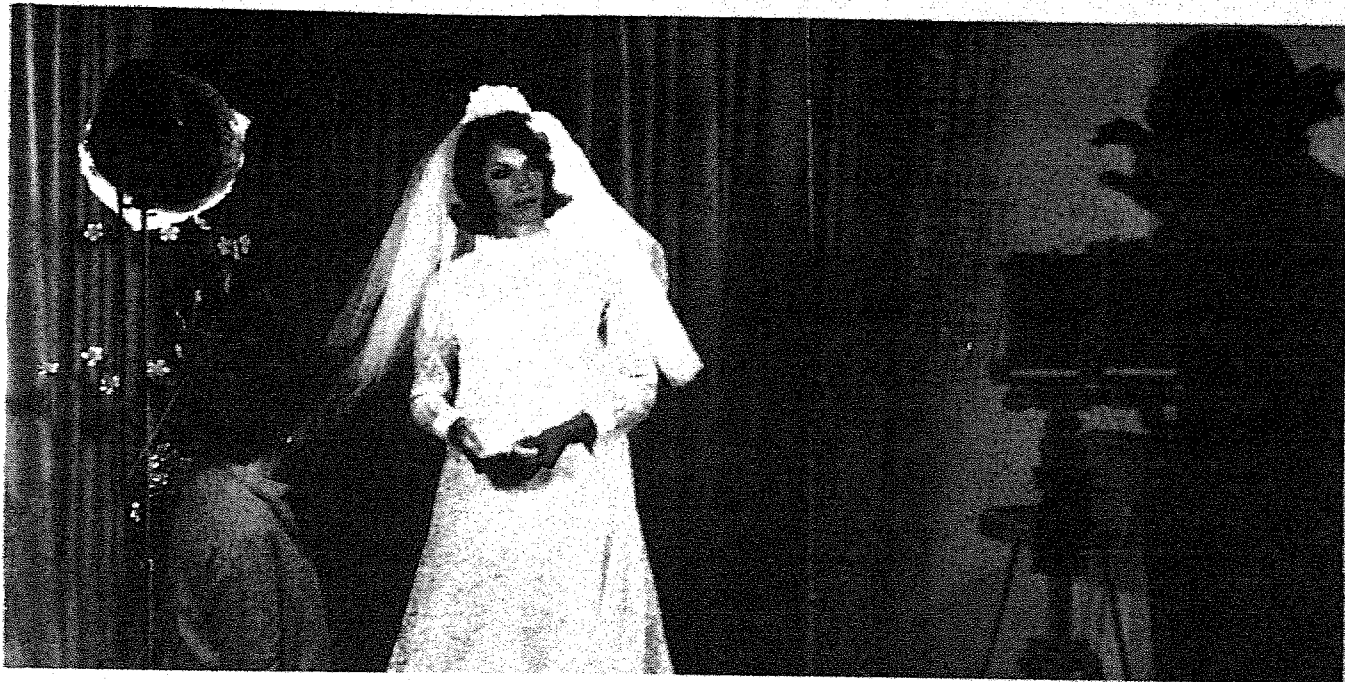
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Bridal Photos: Code To Follow

The code of ethics for wedding photographers developed by the Professional Photographers of America, Inc. (PP of A) makes four requirements of professional photographers who sign it.

They voluntarily agree (1) to contact the officiating clergyman before the wedding, (2) to abide by the church's established rules, (3) to work in unobtrusive manner, and (4) to respect the dignity of the church at all times.

The PP of A which sponsors this code is America's oldest and largest society of professional photographers; it is a nonprofit trade association with over 10,000 members in the U.S. and Canada.

"Before this code was available," explained William W. Carrier, Jr., of the PP of A, "neither the bridal party nor their clergyman had any really objective basis for choosing one wedding photographer over another."

"But now, if they choose a professional who subscribes to the code of ethics, they get the double assurance that their wedding pictures will be of professional quality and the photographer's actions will never detract from the sacredness of the occasion."

His Military Service —What To Do

The engaged or newly-married couple facing military service has to accept rough days ahead, as separations and the interruption of education or career loom with dark realism.

For the new wife, with a husband off to military service, life means a return to aloneness, or to family.

But she's a different woman now — and she doesn't fit well into the old patterns. She's also discovering an entirely new and painful meaning of loneliness.

"Nobody understands that part of you is gone with him. They can't imagine your personal grief, and your resentments sometimes of other couples who don't have to be separated. They wouldn't believe how hard it is for you to get up in the morning. The meaning of your life has gone — and it's hard to work."

"You grow up, though, because you have to face so much — including the cruelty of other guys who keep offering to ease your loneliness. It's a good test of your love," said a young wife whose husband recently returned after nearly two years overseas.

Most young wives feel that if it is at all possible, the wife should travel with her husband.

"At least you're together then, and you get to know his problems, too. My husband was in Okinawa. I would have swam the ocean to get there."

if I could have," said one wife of an ex-soldier.

Another service wife agreed. "Living conditions are not the most convenient. And you have to be able to adjust to living far away from home. But at least you'll be with your husband."

Former military-service wives stress that brides have a very particular responsibility to their husbands, if he is overseas.

This is the time to make him understand how much you love him. So many of his friends are getting "Dear John" letters, that he's always wondering if he'll be next," said one gal, adding:

"My husband told me that he never worried that I'd leave him. My letters kept me real to him and reassured him of my love."

Another woman said, "If your husband is overseas, he's in a war, not in New Jersey. He can hardly remember what normal living is like."

"Your responsibility is to keep up his morale. Write all ways, and put in good news only; send him pictures; keep reassuring him of your love. Above all, be very careful not to make him jealous by care-less references to old boy-friends or to new friends."

Practical matters must be taken care of, too, when a husband is ordered to active duty.

A book recommended for a woman facing a new role as a military wife is *The Complete Guide to the Serviceman's Wife*, by Elizabeth Land (Houghton-Mifflin).

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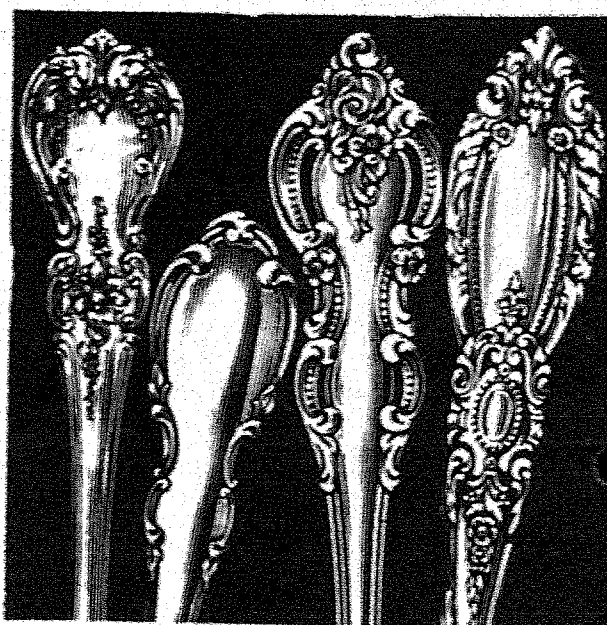
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No Room For Phonies Or Prima Donnas

By
JIM and MARY FIEDLER
NC NEWS SERVICE

"There must be something wrong with them. They never fight or argue with each other."

This is the way we used to think about some neighbors we once had. They were a neat young couple with one child who never were heard to argue with each other or yell at each other or disagree with each other.

We thought there was "something wrong" with this couple because we believe "healthy" arguments are not only a part of marriage but they are a necessary part.

Not those bitter, cruel and selfish arguments in which words and "honesty" are used only to hurt the other, but arguments that are the natural outgrowth of a difference of views between two mature persons who know and understand each other through dialogue.

Everyone has his own ideas, opinions, feelings and attitudes toward life. And a person should not be expected to hide or suppress those when he marries.

No one should dominate in a marriage, neither the husband nor the wife—and certainly not the children or the in-laws.

Marriage should be a relationship between two equals, and two equals should be able to speak honestly and candidly without coy subterfuges on the woman's part and childish pride on the man's. Marriage is not a game between two players trying to out-trick each other.

The familiar comic-strip, TV-series scenes of a cute, cunning wife plotting to manipulate her husband to buy her a new coat or to cover up the fact that she dented the car's fender are an insult to intelligent women—and to men.

Adults — certainly adults involved in such an intimate experience as marriage — should be able to speak to each other frankly about anything, from new coats to deep psychological problems. There must be a continual dialogue in marriage.

Dialogue is a willingness to talk and to listen in order to understand. It is speaking frankly, honestly and lovingly with one another.

Married couples must be able to do this, to tell each other their problems, their views, and their complaints and criticisms of each other.

There is a woman in a TV soap commercial who tells her husband that he had bad body odor. And when the husband becomes embarrassed and angry, the wife says something like: "But I'm your wife. If I can't tell you, who will?"

There must be such understanding, honesty and dialogue between husband and wife that the wife is able to tell her husband he doesn't change his socks often enough, he slurps his food, that he should learn how to add to their sexual enjoyment.

The type of dialogue we are talking about obviously requires a certain amount of maturity. The husband and wife must be mature enough to be able to stand having their ideas, their suggestions and their views — as well as themselves — challenged and criticized.

Everyone should develop self-awareness — an honest appraisal of his own weaknesses, strengths, talents, habits, fears and his faults.

Dialogue between man and wife can — and must — develop this self-awareness, because there is no room for phonies in the intimate relationship of marriage.

And neither should there be any room for prima donnas: the man, for

of course, embrace the children.

We'll admit that sometimes it's difficult to interrupt what we're doing to listen and talk to children — they always seem to interrupt — but it's always worthwhile when we do.



COMFORT — "Dialogue" doesn't always mean discussion. Sometimes it's as simple as giving someone a hug when they need it.

example, shouldn't think he is something extra special simply because he is the one in the family who is "employed."

A man can possibly be a phony or a prima donna at his job, but he should never be in his family.

Honesty between husband and wife, between parents and children is essential for a healthy marriage and family life.

Dialogue between husband and wife should also,

Too often parents assume that their children have the same questions and problems that they had as youngsters.

But we ourselves were called to task recently after discussing the idea of dialogue with our children.

"What's dialogue?" seven-year-old Patrick asked.

We tried to explain it to him, that it means listening to us and his brother and two sisters and trying to understand what others are telling him.

Shortly afterwards, however, while the TV news was on and when the kids at the same time wanted to talk about something, Jim shouted: "Quiet. I want to hear the news!"

"But I thought you were all in favor of dialogue," Patrick replied.

Many obstacles are put in the path of dialogue.

Television is certainly one. When the kids' shows are over, then the so-called adult programs take over: dialogue is often lost in the shuffle.

Another villain is household chores — that busy-work that occupies so much free time. Weekends are often filled with so much house-cleaning, yard-work and running of errands that husband and wife hardly have a whole sentence to say to each other.

Every weekend should contain some sort of family outing or activity — a trip to a museum, a picnic, a long walk or ride, a bus ride "downtown" — something everyone can enjoy that will involve parents and children.

Children should not be hidden from the healthy arguments or debates between parents. They must develop an understanding that these naturally follow when intelligent people with differing backgrounds and experiences discuss their ideas and opinions.

One evening recently at the dinner table we had a rather lively, heated discussion on the unlikely topic of electronic music. In the midst of what must have

seemed like a noisy argument, we noticed several pairs of little eyes gazing at us uncertainly, questioningly.

Then we laughed and explained: "Mommy and daddy aren't fighting. We're just discussing!"

But with everyone wanting to dialogue, it probably need not be said that we seldom, if ever, have a silent dinnertime.

As we've said before,

honesty is important in relations between people, and it is particularly important when parents discuss things with children.

We've tried to be honest with our kids in everything — from when they ask about race riots to when they ask about sex.

That's what dialogue means: human beings being honest with themselves and with each other.



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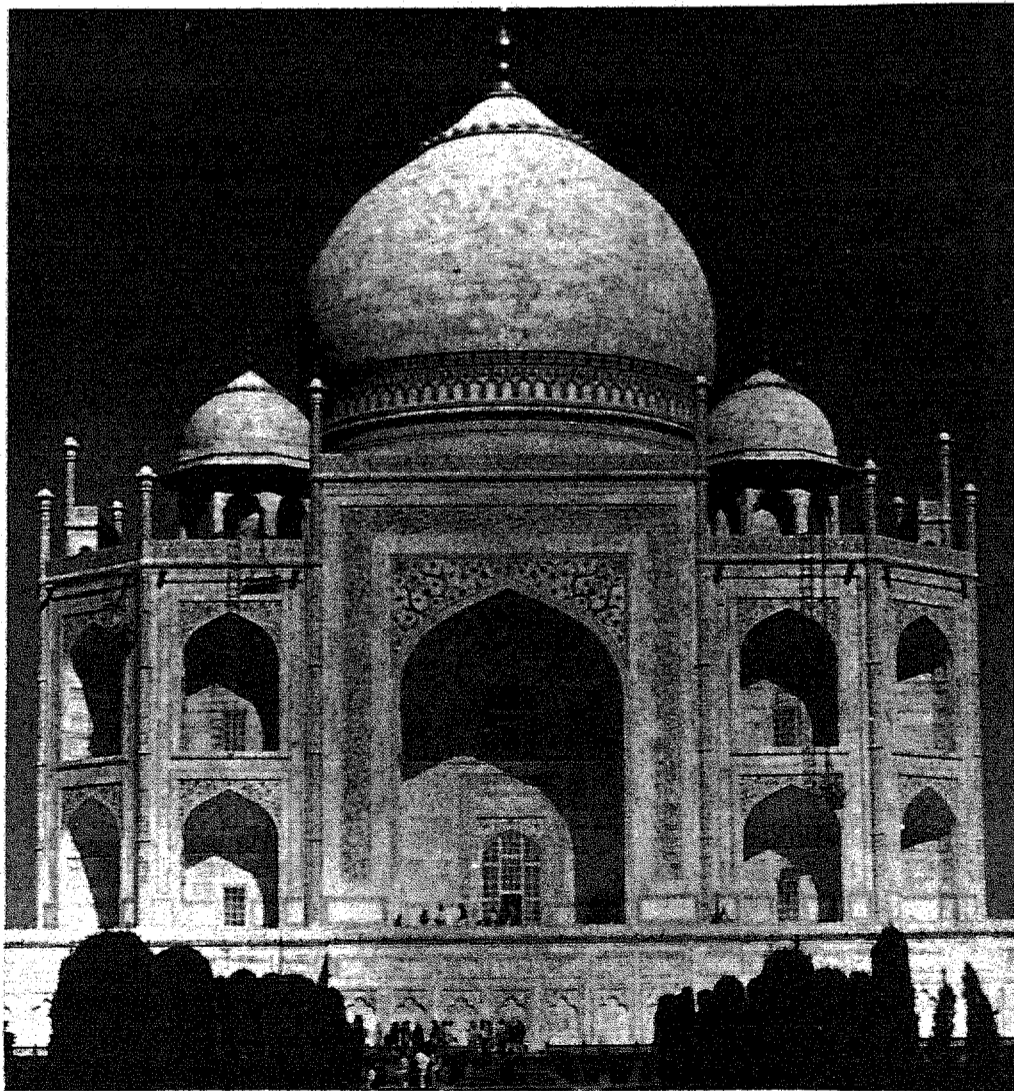
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Bride's



Prayer

O Father, my heart is filled with a happiness so wonderful. I am almost afraid. This is my wedding day. I pray Thee that the beautiful joy of this morning may never grow dim with tears of regret for the step I am about to take. Rather may its memories become more sweet and tender with each passing anniversary.

Thou hast sent me one who seems all worthy of my deepest regard. Grant unto me the power to keep him ever true and loving as now. May I prove indeed a helpmate, a sweetheart, a friend, a steadfast guiding star among all the temptations that beset this impulsive heart of mine.

Give me skill to make home the best loved place of all. Help me to make its light gleam brighter than any glow that would dim its radiance. Let me, I pray Thee, meet the little misunderstandings and care of life more bravely.

Be with me as I start my mission of womanhood, and stay Thou my path from failure all the way. Walk with me even unto the end of our journey.

O Father, bless my wedding day, hallow my marriage night, sanctify my motherhood if Thou seest fit to grant me that privilege. And when all my youthful charms are gone, and cares and lessons have left their traces, let physical fascination give way to the greatest charm of companionship.

And so may we walk hand in hand down the highway of the valley of the shadow which we hope to lighten with the sunshine of good and happy lives.

O Father, this is my prayer. Hear me, I beseech Thee. Amen.

Groom's



Prayer

O Heavenly Father, on this my wedding day, I sense as never before Thy sacred presence. It seems like the first glorious Sabbath in Paradise, when all was good and beautiful, when the universe lay at Thy feet in reverent awe, when the first man and the first woman listened to Thy voice in their pristine joy and innocence.

Behold the woman Thou gavest me as my companion for this life's journey kneels trustfully at my side. I thank Thee for joining our paths, and for granting us the privilege of sharing Thy power in perpetuating the work of Thy Hands.

I know that she is Thy gift to me, and I vow in my deepest soul to love her, treasure her, and keep her with unswerving fidelity until my dying breath.

May the love which knits our souls together today never lose its ardor, its charm, its sweetness, and may spiritual wisdom and maturer understanding ever strengthen our holy bond as the days roll by, and as the bloom and vigor of youth give way to the infirmities of advancing years.

In joy and sorrow, in triumph and failure, I will stand by her side, not as her lord and master, but as a devoted friend and protector sharing with her lovingly all I have and hold. I will build her a home, enduring, beautiful, peaceful: She shall be my queen, my comfort, the pride of my life.

Over this home we will write the Holy Name of Jesus. Grant, O Heavenly Father, that the charm of this beautiful Cana day may abide in it forever, and that Jesus and His Blessed Mother may be our constant guests.

May the same Divine Savior fashion our mutual love and that pure love which He bore to His bride, our Holy Church; and as He presented "to Himself the Church in all her glory, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing," so may I be permitted some day to present to Thee this bride of mine to whom I have pledged constant fidelity before Thy altar.

Plan Ahead Using That New Name

Every bride is delighted with her "new name" — and she's likely to use it at the least provocation.

But look out — until you make a few simple but important changes, you'd better not get carried away.

Banks, for instance, will be delighted that you have a new name. But they won't be so happy if you sign it on checks before registering your new signature. It only takes a couple of minutes; do it, then relax.

Also remember to:

- Notify your local Social Security office.
- Have your state motor vehicle agency change your driver's license and auto registration.
- Notify insurance companies. (There's a real benefit involved here: auto insurance rates will often be lower once you're married.)
- Notify the firms whose credit cards you hold.

It's A Primary State Of Life

Marriage is not the goal or end of life but means whereby man attains life's purpose. It is one of several vocations. When you freely choose it, you are deciding to commit yourself to this special state of life to lead you to your destiny.

Marriage is good, then, to the extent that it helps you fulfill the purpose for which you were made.

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What is a Mini-Banquet?

A mini-banquet is a bridal shower where nobody has to eat chicken a-la king and gelatin mold.

A mini-banquet is a bachelor dinner where the guests eat just as much as they drink.

A mini-banquet is a rehearsal dinner that's such a success, everyone forgets to have the jitters about the ceremony.

And mini-banquet is a wedding reception where all the guests are so busy enjoying themselves, the bride and groom really sneak out on their honeymoon!

A mini-banquet is any group, large or small, who wants to eat great food in an exciting restaurant, wants to know exactly what it's going to cost and wants to know that they're more than welcome.

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In other words, a mini-banquet is a banquet at non-banquet prices. At a Longchamps restaurant.

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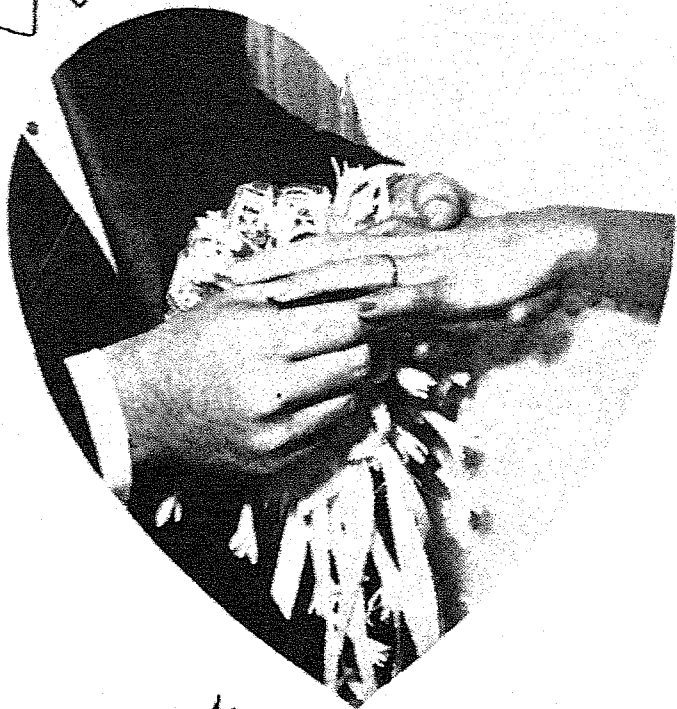
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Your birthstone or his class ring also form the eternal circle of love. In some instances the groom may offer an heirloom stone which can be reset according to your taste. These are certainly acceptable.

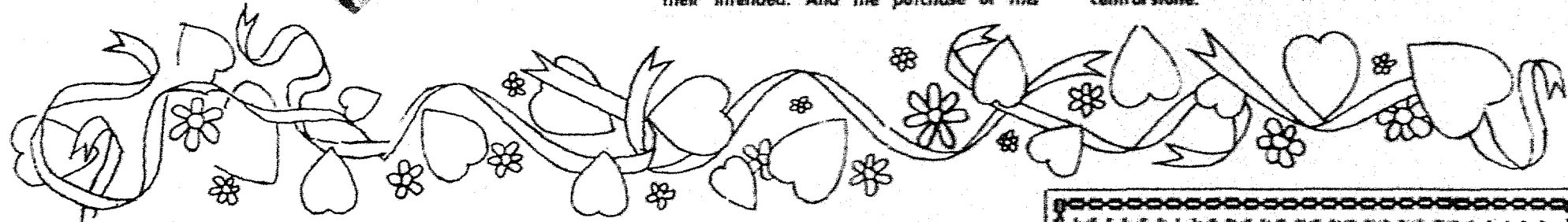
MOST GIRLS receive a diamond from their intended. And the purchase of this

precious stone will be your first important one together. Both should be mature enough to sensibly talk price. A ring that puts him in debt is no way to start your lives together.

Regardless of how much you plan to spend, or what you intend to buy, consult an established, reputable jeweler. Diamonds of the same size can vary in price because of many factors such as color, cut, and clarity, as well as size and weight.

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Many engagement and wedding rings are sold as sets, designed to be worn together and planned for maximum display of the central stone.



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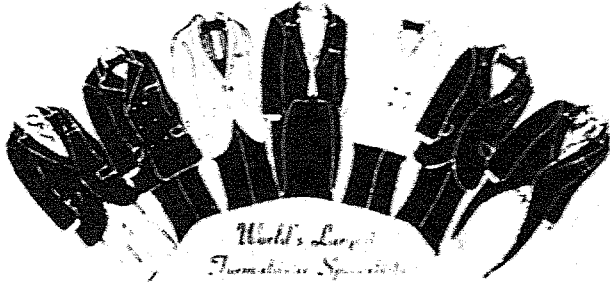
At the wedding reception, the best man always proposes the first toast to the health and happiness of the bride and groom.



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Brides usually present pieces of jewelry or compacts which can be engraved with the memorable date. Grooms find keychains, cufflinks or tieclasp also suitable for engraving.

If the wedding party is large, a slightly different gift should be chosen for the maid or matron of honor and the best man. The flower girl and ring bearer also should be remembered.

Gifts are usually presented at the rehearsal supper or at a special separate luncheon for the bride and her attendants and the groom and his. The presents should be chosen with care and wrapped as mementoes of a happy occasion.



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Marriage -- A Real-Life Happening

By DAVID GIBSON

NC NEWS SERVICE

Marriage is a happening that can last a long time. That's good.

It's also hard: maybe if it weren't expected to last beyond the honeymoon it would be easier to think we'd be good at it.

That long period of time provides ample opportunity for a married person to discover that his partner is really something else (errr, someone else, that is).

It takes hard work and a lot of practice to be good at living with anyone else, particularly a marriage partner who as it often turns out, does not quite fit the mold one had him cast in before the wedding.

"Constant effort. It's work. It's work without any question. It's not Hollywood. It's honest to God work for people to maintain a good, healthy, stable marriage."

The speaker is Dr. Brady McKaigh, 34, a psychiatrist in charge of couples-therapy at the Psychiatric Institute in Washington, D.C.

With a grin, Dr. McKaigh had sandwiched me into a complicated 12-hour work day that includes directorship of admissions for the hospital, short term "crisis intervention" therapy with hospital in-patients, group therapy sessions with out-patients, as much as 90 minutes a day with phone calls and extensive administrative paper work.

Despite the work, he answered my questions thoughtfully and often at length.

"So many of the difficulties in marriage have to do with people coming into marriage with a perception of the spouse that really is not the spouse," Dr. McKaigh explained.

In other words engaged couples really don't know each other as well as they think they do. You hear this often enough. But I began to wonder if there could be some sort of preparation for marriage that would work, that would help prospective spouses from authentic images of each other.

"Certainly knowing — really getting to know the

spouse before marriage — and having a very meaningful, effective and open channel of communication," is needed, Dr. McKaigh said.

"I guess basically you have to start with knowing yourself and something about your own needs. What needs are you carrying into a marital relationship that you would like to have satisfied or gratified?"

"And then: What type of individual can best respond and fulfill those needs for you?"

By and large, Dr. McKaigh said, it would be helpful if those who are not oriented to thinking about such questions could be able to learn in some structure way — to sit down on a regular basis for some kind of preparation.

The trouble is "when people begin contemplating, talking and considering marriage, they're almost beyond the point of having an objective viewpoint about each other. It's so subjective at that point. Obviously, they're very emotionally involved with their partner."

"At this point, how much are they going to hear? How effectively can they begin to censor out and screen out things they may not want to think about, things that may well be true, that an objective person can see? Maybe somewhere earlier, maybe in the schools . . .," he mused.

"I mean, one thinks, 'Yes I am aware of certain things about my prospective spouse that I am concerned about or have some question about. How effectively am I going to be able to live with such and such a characteristic that he or she has?' But a lot of this is lip service."

At this point, I reminded myself that marriage itself provides ample opportunity for getting to know that a spouse is really something else.

Along with problems, some sizzling feelings, and some communication gaps, husbands and wives do have the opportunity of getting to know each other more objectively.

Regrettably, some couples do not find ways of

dealing successfully with the problem this can cause them. That is often where McKaigh can enter in. His job: restore realism.

"A lot of the success of marriage is involved in knowing where the other spouse is in his or her thinking and feelings — the feelings being even more important than the thinking — and then working on the issue of expressing feelings in healthy ways, which is very difficult."

Usually in couples-therapy, Dr. McKaigh explained, people discover that it takes more than one person to make a marriage problem. When this is realized and when the problem is worked at in light of this, treatment proceeds much more effectively.

If a husband and wife are trying to do the difficult work of maintaining a good, healthy, stable marriage, "they will need to keep their perceptions and assumptions about their spouse in agreement with the reality of the situation. They should not have unrealistic expectations of the spouse and then begin acting on those unrealistic expectations. Neither should they begin relating to the spouse as if the spouse were somebody else or had the characteristics of somebody else," he warned.

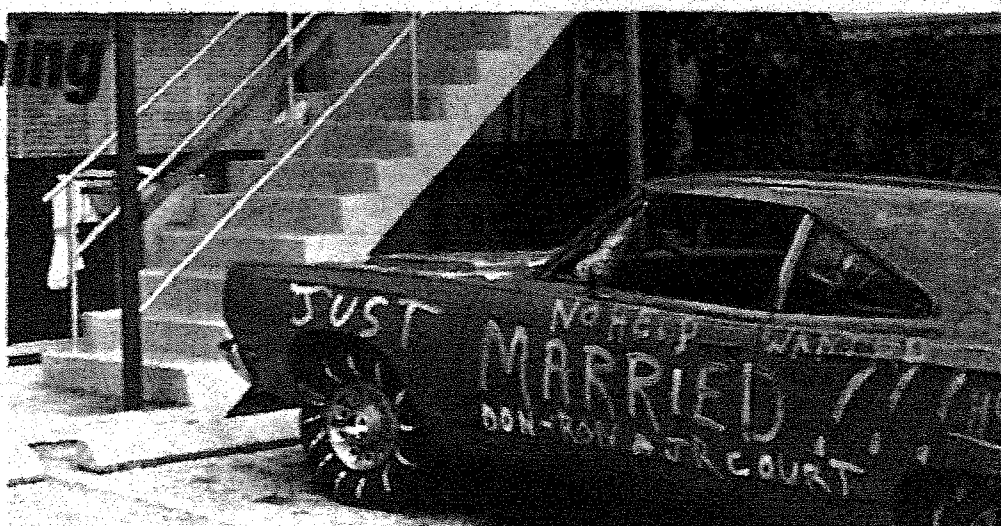
"Similarly, a healthy marriage demands that spouses not make unwarranted assumptions about what the other spouse is thinking and then act on those assumptions."

"So much of the difficulty in marriage can come down to a failure of effective communication, a breakdown of communication," Dr. McKaigh said.

It occurred to me that you can find a communication gap almost anywhere you find a problem these days.

Maybe it seems strange to find communication gaps in such an intimate relationship as marriage. But maybe that's because it is so intimate.

There are so many possibilities for getting to know someone, subjectively and objectively, that some com-



munication gaps are bound to open.

Learning to leap them — and prevent them — is what makes marriage, like many shorter-lived happenings, an exciting process.



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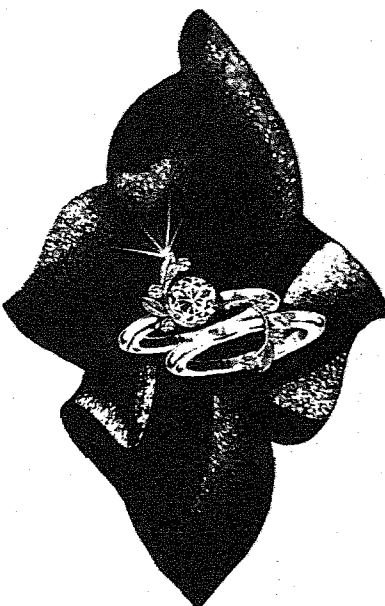
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"Christian husbands and wives are cooperators in grace and witnesses of faith on behalf of each other, their children and all others in their household."
Paragraph 11: Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, Vatican II

Discusses Vatican II Marriage Views

CINCINNATI — The Second Vatican Council made it clear marriage is "a lofty vocation," not a second-rate way of life, a priest-theologian stressed here.

Father George M. Regan, C.M., discussing "Christian Responsible Parenthood" before teachers and students at the College of Mount St. Joseph here, said the council document on the Church in the Modern World "speaks of the positive spiritual values of the sacrament" of matrimony as "a value which has to be stressed in our world."

"Too often in the past," he added, "theologians speaking of marriage were prone to say that if the people only had

the necessary good will, they'd be priests or Sisters."

Father Regan said that the council's emphasis on the value of love marks "a point of development" in the Church's teaching concerning marriage.

The development was not a sudden one, he said, because "there has been a trend leading in this direction over the past 20 or 25 years, but it has been meeting many obstacles."

He recalled that formerly the Church taught that procreation and education of children formed the "primary end" of marriage, and that personal fulfillment was a "secondary end."



"This language is not used in the council document, however," he said, adding that the terms had been "drifting out" of use before the council.

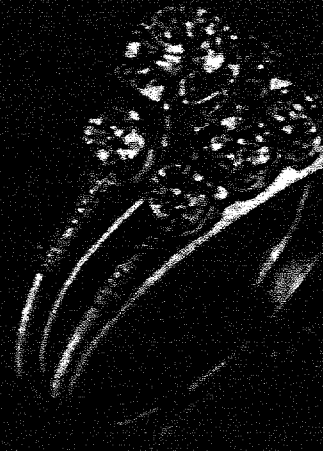
The council document, he said, marks "the final rejection" of the old terminology about primary and secondary ends.

Father Regan expressed the opinion that the old description of marriage had been "misleading," especially for the "ordinary Catholic without a philosophical orientation," who he said would be inclined to take "secondary" as meaning "less important."

"Some interpret the elimination of this terminology as meaning that there is equal value to the ends formerly called primary and secondary," he said.

In any event, the council simply presents love and life as two values, not calling either primary or secondary, he said.

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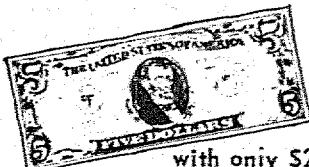
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Here's What To Take On Your Honeymoon

In all the confusion and excitement of preparing for the wedding, it's easy to forget necessities (and a few practical luxuries) to take along on the honeymoon.

Necessities to be packed are:

- make-up and make-up removal pads
- cream that doesn't come off on pillow
- combs and brush (hair spray if you use it)
- shampoo (curlers and hair dryer optional)
- bath oils and perfume (pick his favorite)
- toothbrush, toothpaste and mouthwash
- deodorant
- hygienic needs
- small scissors, tiny sewing kit, safety pins
- suntan oil
- aspirin, vitamins
- pen and stamps
- face cloths (you would be surprised at how many "good" hotels do not supply them).

Under practical luxuries

to be packed are:

- lightweight travel iron
- instant water boiler, instant coffee, tea, dry cream and sugar (for a very early or late snack)
- bottle opener, wine opener, knife (convince him that you're always prepared)

- a little glad money to surprise him with a gift
- camera and film.

When the big day finally arrives it's good to have some schedule established. It's your wedding day and everything should go your way, but here's a little help on countdown procedure:

- two hours before the

ceremony begin dressing.

- one hour before the ceremony, maid of honor and bridesmaids (all dressed) gather where you are to pick up their flowers (and lend a little moral support to the nervous bride).

- 45 minutes before the ceremony, ushers arrive, put on their boutonnieres and,

generally, hide the bride a little.

- 30 minutes before the ceremony, ushers leave for church and begin to escort guests to their seats. Bride's friends and relatives are usually seated on the left side, groom's on the right.

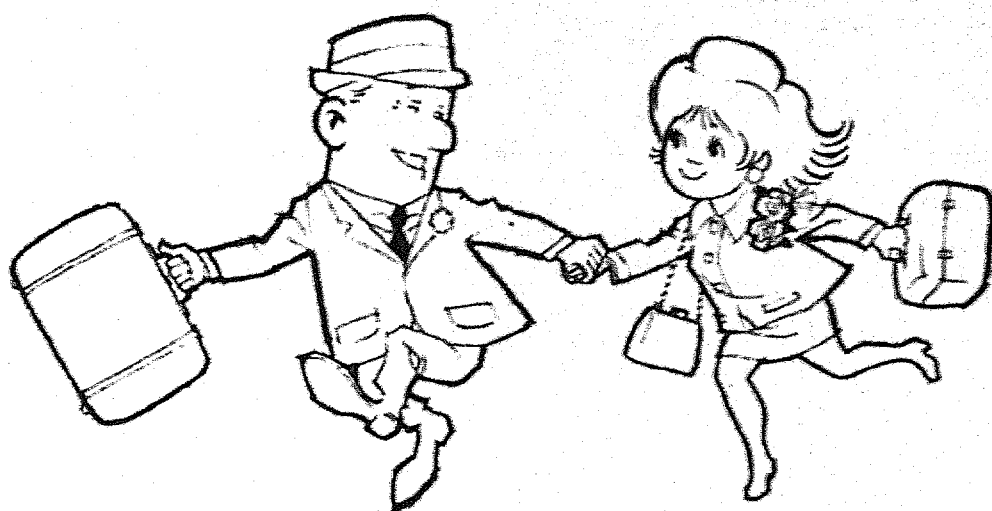
- 20 minutes before the ceremony, groom and best man arrive at church, check marriage license and groom gives donation to priest (if this has not been taken care of already).

- 10 minutes before ceremony: Wedding party and immediate families arrive at church.

- 5 minutes before ceremony, mother of groom is escorted to her seat in first pew on right side. Father of groom follows and sits beside her.

- 1 minute before ceremony mother of bride is escorted to her seat in front left pew by head usher.

- Zero hour: wedding party starts down aisle.



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Visit Rectory Early

Plans for your wedding begin in the rectory. If you live in a particularly busy parish it is wise to go as soon as possible to schedule the date of your choice, and to have the banns announced.

After the date has been set all arrangements are worked out with the pastor of the bride. He needs certain information and will fill out a pre-marital questionnaire with your help. The questions the priest ask are required by the Church and are in no way an attempt to pry into personal lives.

Baptismal record issued within the last six months. Communion and confirmation records. Letters of freedom from your pastor.

Pre-marital questionnaire to be filled out in presence of priest.

If a minor, written permission of parents.

If a mixed marriage, the promises and dispensation.

Get To Church In Good Time

"Get me to the church on time," is not merely an amusing song lyric. It has its basis in the unfortunate fact that weddings don't get underway on time.

It is a point that priests mention most in connection with weddings. Be on time not only for the wedding, but for the rehearsal, they say.

Not only is it courteous to be on time, there may be other weddings and other rehearsals scheduled after yours.

Most parishes nowadays request that guests refrain from throwing rice or confetti on the church premises. Rice, particularly, is dangerous if not swept up and the throwing of either requires extra work for the church maintenance crew.

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Groom's Countdown

-- Remember This

Although he does not have as many preparations for the wedding as the bride, the groom's responsibilities are important.

90 DAYS BEFORE WEDDING

Order your bride's engagement and wedding rings.
Complete your guest list and give it to bride's mother.

Arrange with your fiancée to visit the rectory.
Discuss the number of ushers you'll need with your fiancée, and begin making your choice.

60 DAYS BEFORE THE WEDDING

Order your wedding attire after consulting your bride.

Ask your best man and ushers to participate, and brief them on the proper attire.

Discuss honeymoon plans with your bride and start making the necessary reservations.

30 DAYS BEFORE THE WEDDING

Pick up your bride's wedding ring. Check to see that the engraving is correct.

Purchase gifts for your attendants.

Order gloves and neckwear for your attendants, and make sure they've ordered their own wedding attire.

Select a wedding gift for your bride.

Arrange lodging for relatives and ushers from out of town. They will pay their own expenses.

Make sure all necessary documents — legal, medical and religious — are in order.

Complete honeymoon plans and purchase all tickets.

14 DAYS BEFORE THE WEDDING

Make a date with your bride to get the marriage license. (You might make it a festive occasion with lunch at her favorite restaurant.)

Check on arrangements for the bachelor dinner (if any).

Arrange with your best man for transportation from the reception to the airport or wherever you plan to embark on your honeymoon.

7 DAYS BEFORE THE WEDDING

Present gifts to your attendants (at the bachelor party, perhaps).

Remind your best man and ushers of rehearsal and rehearsal dinner details.

Brief the head usher on any special seating arrangements.

Give best man a sealed envelope containing donation for the priest.

Get your going away clothes in order so you can change at the reception.

Pack for your honeymoon.

Bride's Countdown --A Checklist

The checklist for brides given below will vary with individual requirements, but basically it provides an overall view of the steps a prospective bride should consider in preparing for her big day.

90 DAYS BEFORE WEDDING

Decide what type of wedding you would like.

Set the date and time; make arrangements with your parish priest.

Invite your bridesmaids and ushers to participate in the wedding.

Make the reservations for your wedding reception and/or dinner with your church, hotel or club.

Choose and order your wedding gown and the dresses for your attendants.

Start your guest list, and ask your future mother-in-law to begin hers.

Start planning your honeymoon.

Begin shopping for your new home or apartment and furnishings.

Begin shopping for your pattern in china, silver and the like. It's a good idea to register your choice with a department store having such a service.

60 DAYS BEFORE WEDDING

Order your invitations, announcements and thank-you notes.

Visit your florist and place your order.

Shop for your trousseau.

It is customary to buy your attendants wedding gifts; choose them now.

Make arrangements for a photographer.

Address, stamp and seal your invitations and announcements so they'll be ready to mail at the proper time.

30 DAYS BEFORE WEDDING

Check in with your physician for medical examination, blood test, etc.

Mail those invitations.

20 DAYS BEFORE WEDDING

Don't forget that gift for your future husband-to-be.

Make whatever final decisions remain on your wedding reception menu and order.

Begin recording wedding gifts and writing thank-you notes.

Order your wedding cake and favors.

Treat your bridesmaids to a luncheon. Now is a good time to give them their gifts.

7 DAYS BEFORE WEDDING

Display your gifts in some appropriate place at home.

Make a list of things you'll need for the honeymoon.

Don't forget to have your marriage license signed this week.

Check with your parish priest about church rehearsal time.

THE WEDDING DAY

Mail your wedding announcements.

Give your photographer time to take your wedding portraits before you start down the aisle.



The Happiest Couples

According to research the most happily married couples are those who can say:

(1) We are good companions and have very few conflicts.

(2) We always resolve our disagreements by mutual adjustment.

(3) We find little or nothing in marriage to complain of.



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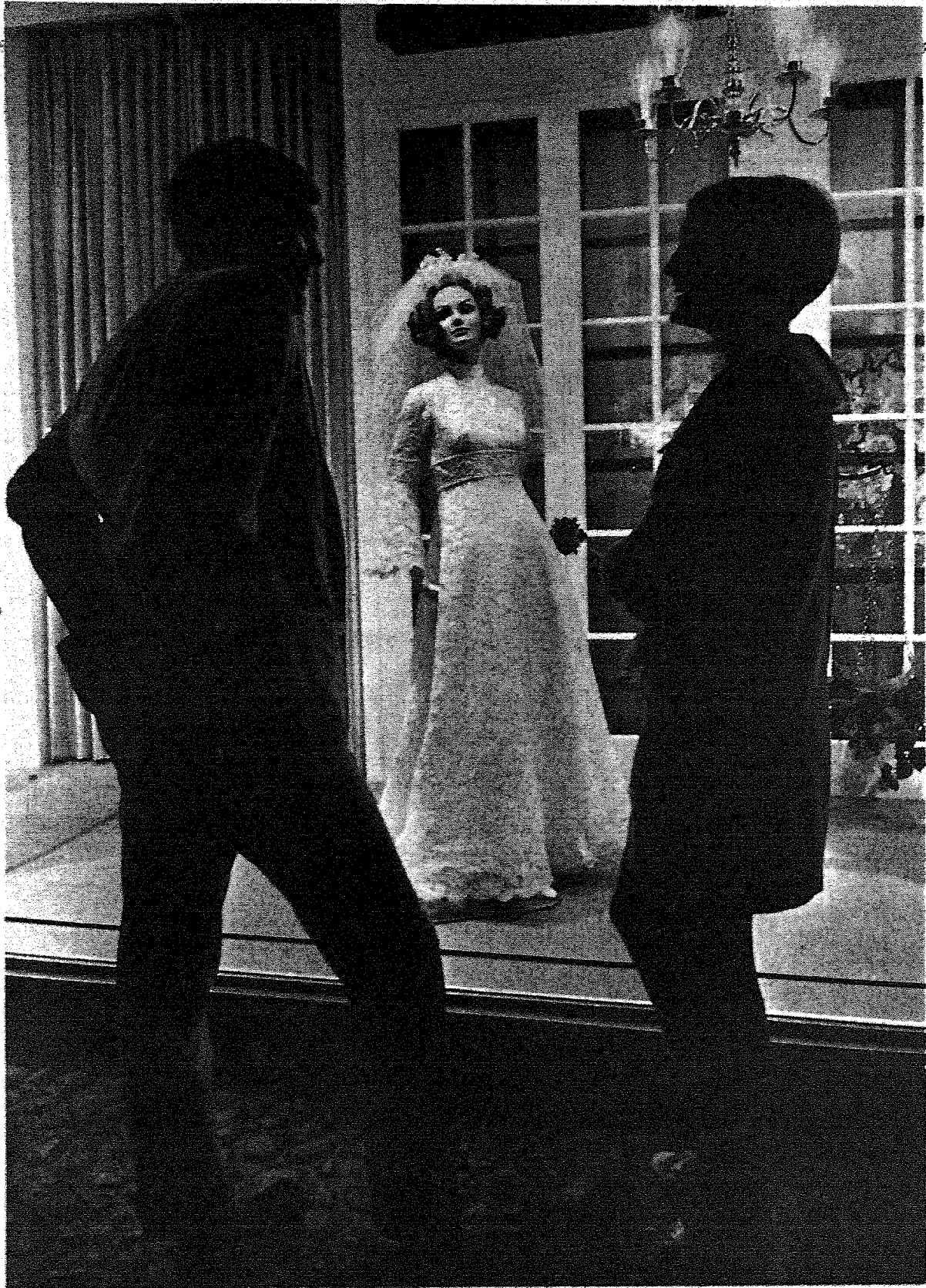
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THERE'S MORE to arranging a wedding than picking out a dress as this young couple already knows. A checklist, similar to the one at the left, concerning the wedding day with reminders on when and how to make all of the orders and reservations can avoid mistakes which could create periods of havoc when the special day arrives.

Plan Ahead

It is a good idea to make arrangements to see the pastor at least three months before the wedding. This gives enough time to carry out requirements in a calm and orderly way.

If the wedding date is known earlier, there is no reason why arrangements for the Church cannot be made earlier.

In fact, this is a good idea particularly for brides to be married in a busy season. Many brides have been disappointed by planning too late only to find the church already scheduled for another wedding.

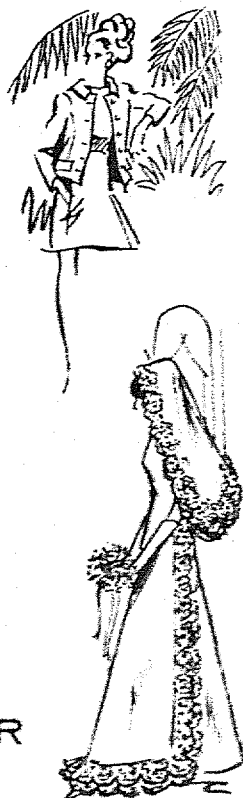
Don't plan the entire wed-



ding before talking to the pastor or parish priest. This is most discourteous and apt to be a source of annoyance. It is the pastor's right to set guidelines for weddings in his church.



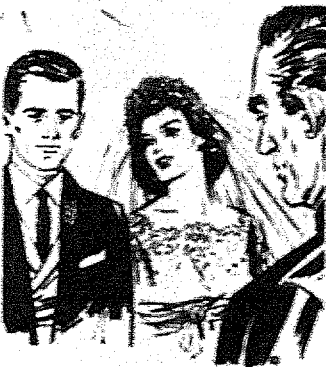
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Discuss Offering With Priest

Offerings made on the occasion of a wedding are mainly a matter of local custom, and financial embarrassment should never be a hindrance to the proper reception of the sacrament. The matter can be discussed with the priest who will perform the ceremony.

An offering in accordance with the means is customarily made to the parish. There is no set fee.

In some places it is customary to give the altar boys a small offering, as a token of appreciation. However, in other places this is discouraged, and it is also better to discuss local custom regarding this with the priest who will perform the ceremony.

Since the advent of the new liturgy, many couples avail themselves of the services of a commentator and lector. It would seem proper, that as in the case of the best man or ushers, a small gift would be appropriate since it is usually a friend of those getting married who performs this function.

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Fast Ways To Ruin A Marriage

1. Insist on your own way. Never give in or compromise — even on little things.
2. Run home to mother with your troubles. Never try to solve things yourself — or together.
3. Air your spouse's faults in public. Amuse the crowd at party with anecdotes about his or her failings. Never let a slip pass without comment.
4. Put other things before each other. If you're a husband, your job, hobby or do-it-yourself project. If you're a wife, the children, housework, cards or club work.
5. Always wait for your partner to say he or she is sorry first, if you have an argument. Never admit you are wrong.



How To Fight With Your Wife

Quarrels? Sure, they'll occur occasionally — unless the marriage partners are either spineless or saints.

The Cana Conference of Chicago offers these eight ground rules for the encounter:

- Keep little things little — don't make a mountain of molehills.
- Keep it to a discussion — a difference of opinion need not turn into an argument.
- Keep hold of tongue and temper — we always hurt the ones we love because we know their Achilles' heel.
- Keep it fair — reveal your feeling honestly. Don't insult or insinuate.
- Keep it to yourselves — two are enough for a good fight. Don't bring in in-laws, friends, neighbors, children.
- Keep it current — don't rake up the past to support your present position.
- Keep talking — the silent treatment is deadly and defeating.
- Keep it short — never let the sun set upon your anger.

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Holy Family Cited As A Pattern

"When God in His mercy decided to carry out the work of man's redemption . . . He arranged to perform His task in such a way that in its beginnings it might show forth to the world the august spectacle of a divinely founded family. In this, all men were to behold the perfect exemplar of domestic society as well as of all virtue and holiness.

"We cannot doubt that all the glories of domestic life, taking their origin in mutual charity, saintly character, and the exercise of piety were without exception manifested in a superlative degree by the Holy Family as a pattern for all other families to imitate. To this very end a benign Providence had established the Holy Family in order that all Christians in whatever walk of life or situation might have a reason and an incentive to practice every virtue, provided they would fix their gaze on the Holy Family.

"In Joseph, heads of the household are blessed with the unsurpassed model of fatherly watchfulness and care. In the holy Virgin Mother of God, mothers possess an extraordinary ideal of love, modesty, submission, and perfect loyalty. In Jesus, who was 'subject to them,' children have before them the divine picture of obedience to admire, venerate, and copy . . . Nothing in fact can be conceived more helpful or effective for Christian families than the example of the Holy Family,

embracing as it does the perfection and fulfillment of all domestic virtues. When thus invoked, may Jesus, Mary and Joseph take their place in the family circle as its propitious patrons. May they foster charity, mold character, and encourage the practice of virtue through the imitation of their example. By sweetening the burdens of this life which everywhere encompass us, may they render them more easy for us to bear."

Leo XIII
Neminem Fugit, 1892



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Engagement: A Time For Making Certain

What is the purpose of an engagement?

It is natural for an engaged girl to like to see her fiance and to experience renewed pleasure in meeting him frequently.

These meetings should serve above all for getting to know each other better, more thoroughly and more

intimately, so as to judge the possibility of a successful marriage, a guarantee of a happy and virtuous life together.

It is a time for reflection before the most irrevocable contract a human being can make; it is a question of making definitely sure that you are not mistaken in your choice.

Above all, the engaged couple should make sure that they share an identical conception of life in this profound significance.

For example, what is the religious outlook of the other person? Does his Christian life consist of only attending Sunday Mass and of occasionally receiving the sacraments? Or is his whole

life really ruled by strong convictions which motivate his actions, help him to make an effort to improve his character, and to master himself in order to better fulfill the duties of his daily work?

If the religion of either party is superficial, then it is to be feared that the Christian education of the children to come will be affected.

First, by studying each other. The engaged couple must be able to exchange their ideas, and plans in private. These free and natural talks are necessary; parents should allow the young people the opportunity of presenting their points of view frankly and honestly. The frequency of these talks will depend upon how soon marriage is to take place.

During these meetings

you must make sure to reveal your natural self. Too often, engaged couples have a tendency to flatter themselves intellectually, pretend to qualities, talents, or virtues which they do not have, or at least not to the degree they are implying. It is infinitely better to make yourself known as you are, with your true character, your faults as well as your virtues, in their more or less true proportions.



ENGAGEMENT OFFERS a couple a unique opportunity to strengthen their bonds of love and to learn more about each other's habits and life styles. Time spent together can give room for growth of the love relationship.

A certain agreement is definitely necessary in plans for the future and for the running of the home. If their tastes are radically different their understanding would probably encounter insurmountable obstacles or would exact such sacrifices that the happiness of one or even both of the spouses would be seriously jeopardized.

HARMONY

It is also necessary that temperaments be sufficiently harmonious. Two truly serious Christians having relatively identical ideas and ambitions, can nevertheless, as a result of profound differences, be incapable of lasting agreement, and thereby find it impossible to establish a peaceful home.

On the whole, since marriage is the most serious decision of a lifetime, the engagement period should be usefully employed in getting to know each other as thoroughly as possible.

How can you arrive at this mutual knowledge?

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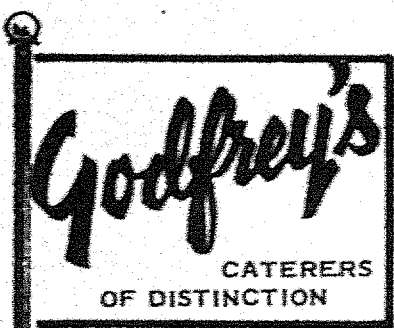
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Guide To Correct Wedding Attire



VERY FORMAL

Bride

Evening and Daytime: Traditional gown with cathedral or chapel length train.

Groom and attendants

Evening: Full evening dress.

Daytime: Oxford-gray cutaway coat, striped trousers, formal white shirt with wing collar, striped ascot or turned down collar and striped four-in-hand tie.

Bridesmaids

Evening: Floor-length gowns.

Daytime: Same as evening but gowns are often less elaborate.

Mothers

Evening: Floor-length evening or dinner dresses. Small hats or veil.

Daytime: Same as evening but not as formal.

FORMAL

Evening and Daytime: Floor length gown with or without train.

Evening: Dinner suit, black jacket for winter, white for summer.

Daytime: Black or oxford-gray stroller, striped trousers, gray waistcoat, white shirt, turned-down collar, striped four-in-hand tie.

Similar to very formal but gowns are occasionally shorter.

Dinner dresses, usually long, small hat or veil.

Daytime: Dressy gown, usually street length.

INFORMAL

(Always Daytime)

Suit or street dress, harmonizing accessories

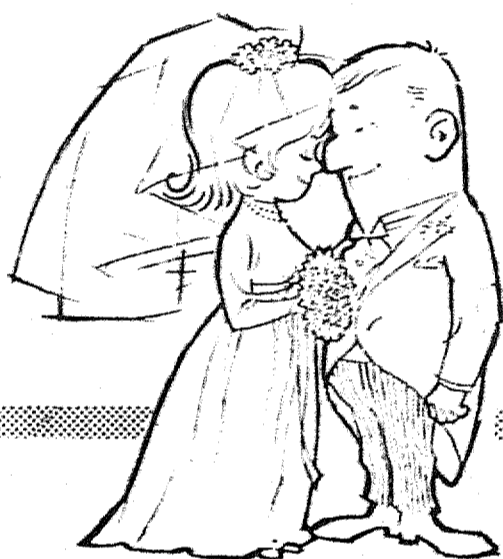
Dark business suit, white shirt, four-in-hand tie.

Summer: White jacket, oxford gray trousers or dark blue jacket, white flannel trousers also correct.

Gown: Same length as bride's.

Dresses or suits similar to attendant.

Guidelines may always be modified according to size, location of wedding, and the time of year. There are no really hard and fast rules to dictate such items as length of the bride's veil or wearing of gloves. Both decisions should be based on the style of dress chosen. Gloves now are considered optional apparel and again depend on the style of gown. There is one exception, and this is for informal weddings where gloves are required.



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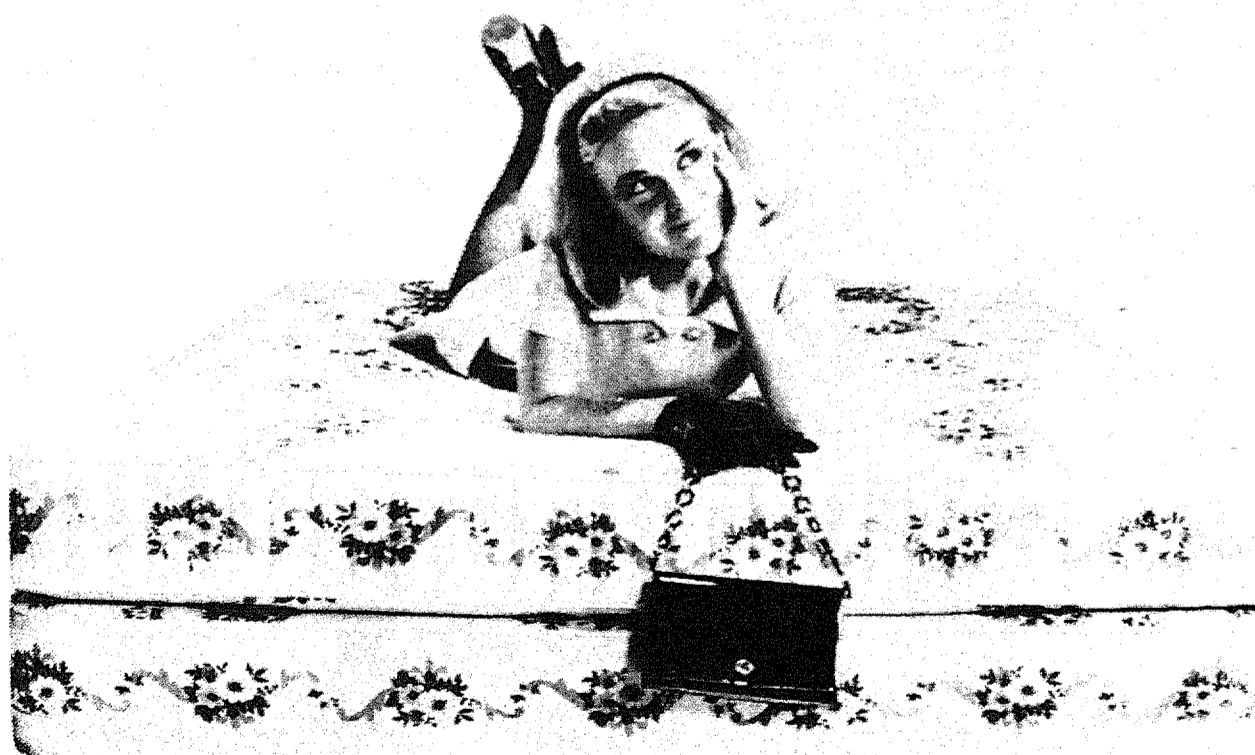
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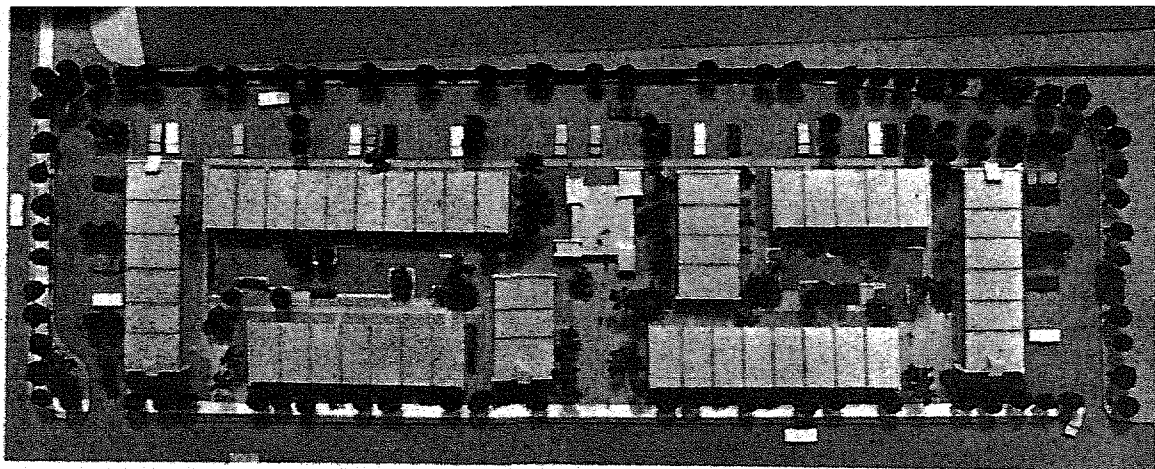
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HOUSING is a problem for every young couple — especially in South Florida where rents and mortgage rates have sky-rocketed. The couple should allow themselves plenty of time to look for a suitable place — whether they rent or buy — and they should stick within their budget when pricing places to live.

Check Every Angle When House-Hunting

Are you haunted by house hunting or apartment hunting?

Surveys show that most Americans make several moves during a lifetime.

Even though your first home may not be your last, it is a major investment, so make it your policy to insure

against sudden scares like closing costs, landscaping, upkeep and expensive wall or plumbing repairs.

You'll find that the house that Jack built can cost you a lot of "jack" if it has a sagging foundation, gummy gutters, wavy or leaky roof.

When it comes time to

consider the rental or purchase of an apartment or house, study these timely signals.

First of all, buy what you can afford. Many a dream home has turned into a financial nightmare because costs weren't calculated correctly.

In addition to the down payment, consider the money required for preliminary and closing costs, mortgage payments, taxes, deeds, insurance, utilities and upkeep.

Next, add the expenses for furnishings, appliances and landscaping. Then total up your monthly housing costs.

If you can meet your monthly housing expenses comfortably within your income, and still have enough left over for food, clothing, medical expenses, transportation and savings, then you can afford your dream house.

A home is a major investment. When shopping around,

check locations and compare neighborhoods.

Ideally, the house should be accessible to transportation, schools, churches, shopping, recreation facilities and medical services.

Check to see if the sidewalks, street lights, sewers and curbs are installed and paid for.

Look at the building site, too. Quality of the soil, drainage, and exposure to wind, sun and shade are important considerations all year around.

Both brand new and older dwellings should be checked for soundness of construction. A spanking coat of paint sometimes can conceal shoddy materials and poor workmanship.

Check important items such as the foundation, water supply and sewage disposal, chimney, roof and gutters, heating system, electricity, insulation and storage space.



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Get 'Thank You' Note Paper

As a wise and thoughtful bride you will order stationery for thank-you notes at the same time you order your wedding invitations or begin the plans for your wedding. Any small personal note paper, monogrammed or not, is appropriate.

Every present requires a note personally written by you and the task can become quite burdensome if you wait to do it all at one time. It is a good idea, therefore, to write immediately as each gift is received and to keep the notes and mail them all at once after the wedding. Except in very unusual circumstances, your thank-you notes should be completed no later than 30 days following your wedding. Some brides have been notoriously remiss in this respect, which is much to their discredit and marks them as inconsiderate, discourteous, and unappreciative.

All notes should be signed with your first name, your maiden name, and your new name, except for those going to well-known friends or members of the family, so that you can be readily identified by the recipient.

A Perfect Mate — There's None

Before marriage you cannot observe all the character traits of your fiancé. Besides during courtship you are on your good behavior. New love tends to stress similarities rather than differences.

In reality this means only that the "best" husband and wife in the world is not perfect. God alone is perfect.

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The old familiar wedding rhyme is one that has been cherished by brides for hundreds of years.

It won't be too hard to find most of the items mentioned in the old verse—maybe the symbolic "sixpence", warning to brides and grooms that saving is a mighty important part of luck.

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In-Laws Can Be Helpful, Especially With The Children

There is a part of marriage to which young couples give little thought during the happy days of courtship and honeymoon. This is the acquisition of in-laws who eventually become the "grandparents."

Before marriage the relationship between the couple and their in-laws has been of a superficial nature. During the early years of a marriage we come to know the personality of our in-laws. A wife's love for her husband causes her to overlook hers. They have not yet learned to love each other's parents in this way.

The very qualities which first made them admire and later love each other have been instilled in them by their parents. What they see as interference by these parents who have molded them is really sincere interest and concern for the young couple. This point is only understood

when the young couple have their own children. The selfless love the younger couple show for their own children is reflected in the "interfering" love of the in-laws.

As the years progress the practical business of getting along together is only accomplished by tolerance. A sincere effort to understand the feelings and viewpoint of the in-laws will avoid "the clash" which may close the lines of communication completely. This foundation once built will sustain a healthy relationship among "Mama, Daddy, Grandma, Grandpa and the little ones."

Never deprive a child of the privilege of enjoying the company of loving grandparents. The joy of being with someone whose every effort is to delight and entertain is an experience the child will cherish always. Wise parents can help their

child draw valuable lessons from such a relationship.

In this day of hunger for social justice, a parent must be careful not to allow the prejudices of an older generation to be carried on to the next. He should encourage his child to develop an open mind. If Grandma and Grandpa do not like the man down the street because of his color or the fellow on the corner because of his faith, here is an excellent opportunity for the parent to teach the child sound principles of Christian charity.

The impatience of the grandparents with innovation and change within the Christian community can be another source of confusion for the grandchildren. In this circumstance the parent must explain the reason for this attitude to the child, being careful to point out the right of both opinions to exist.



FAMILY — Young Couples — and their children — often do not have the easy access to the advice and friendship of their families that they once had.

There are also some grandparents who tend to be over-indulgent. Naturally they want their grandchildren to have all the material things possible, things they know will bring the child pleasure. This joy should not be denied the grandparent, but the parent should make the child understand that this good fortune is not his due just for being a grandchild. A spirit of personal humility and thankfulness should be cultivated in him.

Permissiveness is a word used often today. It means simply that young people are being allowed to do and say whatever they please without restraint by parent or society. Parents must stand their ground on the matter of discipline. If children are allowed extra liberties while in the company of grandparents, they must be brought back to the realities of homelife upon their return. A firm stand by the parent and a sincere discussion with the grandparents may be one way to avoid this "double standard" of conduct.

As children grow older money plays an increasingly important part in their lives. Grandma and Grandpa seem to have a money tree in their backyard which produces in abundance for the grandchildren. The parent must see that his child learns the value of a dollar. He should be allowed to accept money, but be taught to save for important purchases such as scouting equipment, new tires for the bike, new fish for the aquarium, etc.

The child who is fortunate

enough to have a close relationship with his grandparents has a special opportunity for personal development.

This contact helps to develop in him a respect for older persons and an appreciation of their opinions.



LAST MINUTE adjustments to gown and bride's make-up can mean a natural look which every bride-to-be would like to achieve.

Natural Look Takes Skill

The beauty of a bride on her wedding day should have a natural look, the look which only skill and artifice can bring to give your face the look of radiant softness. It's best to experiment with new makeup and hairdo ideas well before the wedding, in order to allow the time needed to find the light, deft makeup ways that will win you the accolade of a "beautiful bride."

The color of the wedding dress can affect shade of foundation and powder. With pure white, palest pink looks great; with ivory or cream, the beige and peace tones are often better.

Lipstick and nail polish should be soft in tone and natural looking. A beige or delicate pink is best.

Eye makeup should be light and subtle. Avoid conspicuous eye shadow and mascara, heavily penciled

brows. Underplaying is your cue.

Your wedding hairdo should be worked out together with your headdress and veil. Take them to your hairdresser and ask him to design a style that's similar to the one you have now, with slight modifications.

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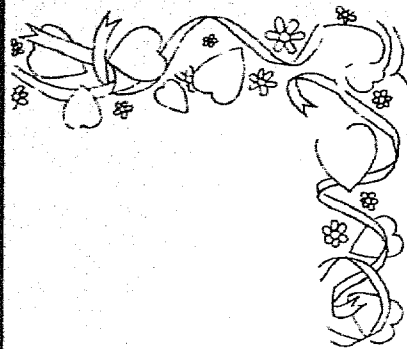
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They join hands.
 The Bridegroom says:
 "I, N., take you, N., to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life."
 The Bride says:
 "I, N., take you, N., to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life."



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Excerpts From New Rite For Marriage

"Father, by your plan man and woman are united, and married life has been established as the one blessing that was not forfeited by original sin or washed away in the flood.

"Look with love upon this woman, your daughter, now joined to her husband in marriage. She asks your blessing. Give her the grace of love and peace. May she always follow the example of the holy women whose praises are sung in the scriptures.

"May her husband put his trust in her and recognize that she is his equal and the heir with him to the life of grace. May he always honor her and love her as Christ loves his bride, the Church.

"Father keep them always true to your commandments. Keep them faithful in marriage and living examples of Christian life. Give them the strength which comes from the gospel so that they may be witnesses of Christ to others."

...
 Holy Father, creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your own likeness, source of blessing for the married life, we humbly pray to you for this bride who today is united with her husband in this sacrament of marriage.

"May your fullest blessing come upon her and her husband so that they may together rejoice in your gift of married love and enrich your Church with their children.

The following are excerpts from the New Rite for Marriage, which will be implemented at a date to be announced by Archbishop Coleman F. Carroll at the recommendation of the Liturgical Commission of the Archdiocese of Miami.

"Lord, may they both happy and turn to you in their praise you when they are sorrows.

"May they be glad that you help them in their work, and know that you are with them in their need.

"May they pray to you in the community of the Church, and be your witnesses in the world."

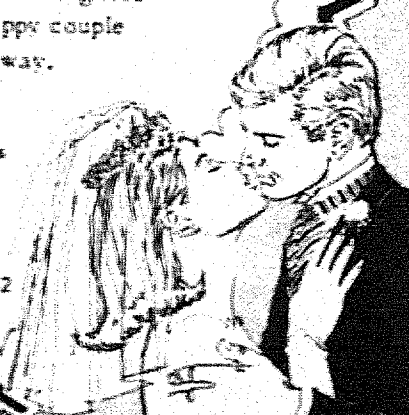
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Best Of The Books On Marriage

By FATHER
JAMES T. McHUGH
Director, Division of Family
Life, U.S. Catholic
Conference

Preparation for marriage has always been a serious and complex endeavor, and it is more so today than ever before.

Gone are the days when a man taught his son a trade and a woman schooled her daughters in the domestic arts. The time has passed when the newly-married could look to their families for special support and attention; they're too far away, usually.

Young people today are the products of a longer and more specialized educational process that places great value in individualism. The decision to marry requires something of a re-orientation, and the couple must work out for themselves their plans for family life.

Today's young couples are aware of this, and are intent on setting up some goals for themselves as married partners.

High school and college marriage courses are helpful; discussions with married friends provide insights; the pre-cana conference highlights and synthesizes practical information. In the long run they find mutual understanding in shared convictions, built on dialogue and a continual up-dating of information.

A good book on marriage and family living can be helpful, and in recent years a number of informative and readable books have appeared directed to ordinary couples eager to get the best from their marriages.

In many cases the authors are married couples more interested in sharing their insights than in solving problems. Within the Catholic community there is also a greater effort to discover and delineate the implications of Vatican II in regard to marriage and family life.

The following are some of the better selections currently available:

One of the most recent offerings is Joseph and Lois Bird's "Marriage is for Grownups" (1969, N.Y., Doubleday). Drawing upon their experience in counseling, the authors address this book to those couples whose mar-

riage is basically good, but who become so bogged down in little problems, they seem to miss the mutual fulfillment that they know marital living can bring.

The Birds maintain that marriage is a total relationship between two people who love one another, not just a series of problems that they are mutually faced with and feel compelled to work out. The topics covered in the book are commonplace: communication, money, sex, the children. The approach is clear and directed, reflecting what they have learned by experience as much as by professional training.

I found "We All Have Mixed Marriages" one of the

factory to Stable-Unsatisfactory.

They describe each of the categories by a "typical example," and most married couples can recognize something of their own experience in these examples. The book is quite provocative, but makes the point that marriage is growth and progress, and becomes most dissatisfying when a couple settles for the mirage rather than pursuing the ideal.

A word should also be said for an earlier book by Joseph and Lois Bird, "The Freedom of Sexual Love" (1967, N.Y., Doubleday). This small volume caught the message of Vatican II and its implications for a married

the best thinking of modern Popes and present-day theologians — always focusing on the dignity of the human person. His chapter on the formation of conscience places proper emphasis on the role of law and authority without losing sight of man's basic humanity and psychological growth.

"I Will" (1969) a paperback by Urban Steinmetz, is a recent publication of Ave Maria Press. The author is director of the Marriage Enrichment Program in Escanaba, Michigan, and his book draws upon his own experience as husband and father as well as his work in marriage education and counseling. Steinmetz is on the

marriage manuals with the wisdom that comes from understanding the human experience.

Jose De Vinck and Father John Catoir are the authors of "The Challenge of Love" (1969, N.Y., Hawthorn). The book is written for the engaged and young marrieds, and is significant for its pastoral insights and orderly presentation. The authors have anticipated the questions that young couples might ask, and they offer practical advice — always reminding the reader to form conscientious judgments that take into consideration the rights of the other person and the responsibilities of the married state.

Robert and Mary Joyce's "New Dynamics in Sexual Love" (1970, Collegeville, Minn., St. John's University Press) is a more philosophically-oriented work. It attempts to consider marriage and sexual love against the insights of modern philosophers.

For the couple considering interfaith marriage, "Protestant-Catholic Marriages Can Succeed" by Paul and Jeanne Simon (1967,

N.Y., Association Press) is the best book around. The authors speak from personal experiences, and they bring to their work a good understanding of present-day ecumenism. At the same time, they write of the little things that come up so frequently in marriage, and whose proper handling is of more practical importance than theological consultations.

The married couple might also consider periodicals that will keep them abreast of contemporary trends. "Marriage" magazine, published by the monks at St. Meinrad in Indiana, or the "St. Anthony Messenger" are worthy of special recommendation.

In conclusion, it's worth emphasizing again that no book or periodical has all the answers nor the easy solution to life's problems. The best that can be expected is that literature will represent the common problems and challenges encountered in marriage in an objective manner. Couples must use the perspectives and insights in their own way to feed the conjugal dialogue.

Books Examine Marriage Problems

"Marriage In The Modern World" (1965), Rev. B. Haring, C.S.S.R. An integrated sociological-theological treatise excellent for college students; a reference work for all concerned with family matters. \$6.95.

"The Art of Loving" (1962), Erich Fromm. An inquiry into the nature of love. Points out barriers that modern society has erected between its members and the achievements of love. A human book filled with understanding and compassion. (Paper) \$1.25.

"Marriage Is Holy" (1957), H. Caf-

farel (ed.). Among other things, this book points out the truth that marriage is "less an institution than a way of life" — a vocation deeply rooted in the realization of the sacramental aspect of marriage. (Paper) \$1.25.

"Sex and Personal Growth" (1967), Reginald Trevett. The author, a counselor and educator, takes a fresh look at how we relate to one another as male and female from infancy to old age. He stresses the rich opportunities for development which man's sexual nature affords. (Paper) 95.

best chapters in the book. The authors show that every person has his own set of values, belief and moral imperatives. In many cases these are shared by others, but the emphasis may differ from person to person. Merely marrying an adherent of the same church will not assure agreement on all issues.

Couples must re-examine their belief in God, and their effort to make their marriage the basis of their faith commitment. They will then be able to understand each other better, and mutually supply the motivation and example that each one needs.

The "Mirages of Marriage" by Lederer and Jackson (1968, N.Y., Norton) adapts a mathematical concept and treats the family as a "system." Every "system" is somewhat unique, and equilibrium is achieved by balancing internal strengths and weaknesses. The authors classify marriages along a continuum from Stable-Satis-

couple. It deserves careful reading by every engaged couple.

"God's Love in Human Language," by Father Van der Poel, (1969, Penn., Duquesne University Press) has just appeared, and it is an excellent synthesis of the scriptural and theological insights of Vatican II presented in a clear and thought-provoking style.

Father Van der Poel's work with married couples gives a liveliness to his theological writing as he develops his basic point — that the sacrament of marriage is rooted in the human realities of sexual difference, conjugal love, generosity and affection, and a desire for parenthood.

The scriptural insight is present throughout, and Father Van der Poel presents

same wave-length as the Birds, convinced that marriage can be the happiest of choices for those couples who will have it so.

Without becoming trapped in the old stereotyped, trite list of psychological differences between men and woman, Steinmetz focuses on the ability of each partner to develop fully as man or woman, and he shows how the achievement of sexual maturity contributes to the vitality of the marital union. His chapter on mutual respect is especially provocative.

"Our Bed is Flourishing" (1969, N.Y., Sheed & Ward) by Dr. Robert McCready, a Chicago obstetrician, is addressed to engaged couples and the newly-married. The book balances the technical advice that is usually given in

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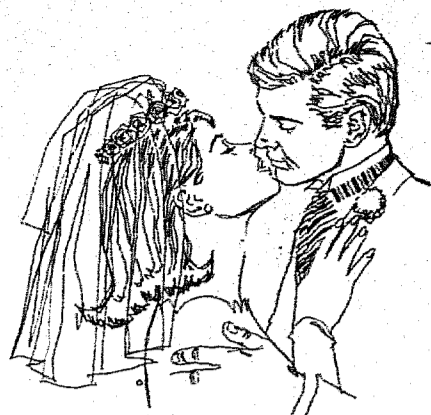
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"Enamorados," dibujo al creyón del pintor dominicano Julio Susana, especial para The Voice



La felicidad conyugal existe. Pero no se le encuentra hecha en el momento de casarse . . . Hay que hacerla todos los días a base de ternura, paciencia, comprensión, buena voluntad . . .

Andre Mauriac

Cuando Se Tiene Amor

Por

el Padre Angel Villaronga

Hoy más que nunca es necesaria la preparación al matrimonio. Nunca como hoy se ha atacado tanto, directa o indirectamente el estado del matrimonio.

Hay una fiebre epidémica y casi incontrolable, difundida a través de los medios de comunicación social, que quiere destruir la institución matrimonial.

Hace poco un artista célebre, celebre además de por sus actuaciones en la pantalla, por sus divorcios, Cary Grant, pronosticaba en Londres la desaparición del matrimonio para dentro de cien años. Un profesor de psicología de Washington hacia el mismo pronóstico, pero, en vez de cien años el ponía diez.

Estos días la prensa local iba aun mucho mas aprisa. Un artículo, acompañado de una fotografía en la que se veía una jovencita vestida de novia, rodeada de tumbas, nos trataba de convencer, con profusión de testimonios, de que el matrimonio ya esta muerto.

Proposiciones como la de un triple matrimonio para cada persona — uno a los 15 años, con una persona de 30; otro (tras el divorcio) a los 30 años, con una persona de 15; y un tercero, a los 45 años con una persona de 45. — Y proposiciones como alguna ya experimentada, de tres parejas en las que indistintamente y promiscuamente cada uno vive con los otros tres; amén de una letanía de citas en las que se habla del matrimonio como de la institución mas opresiva para hombre y mujer y en las que se presenta al matrimonio como un desastre, abundaban en dicho artículo.

!Bonito prospecto para presentárselo a los jóvenes que sueñan con el matrimonio!

¿Que es lo que falla en esta concepción ultramaterialista y ultra modernista del matrimonio?

¿Que es lo que lleva a hablar del matrimonio únicamente en el plan sexual, y de este, en el nivel más bajo, casi como se podría hablar tratándose del cruce de dos especies de animales?

Falla el concepto del amor. Tanto argumento, tanta cita, tanta experiencia aducida, me ha hecho recordar aquella definición de

no se quién: "el amor es el roce de dos epidermis."

Ahi estriba todo. En el concepto del amor. Primeramente. Después, los malos ejemplos de los matrimonios ya constituidos. Los que fueron inmaduros al matrimonio. Los infieles del matrimonio. Los que esperan demasiado del otro, endiosándolo, o no esperando nada, envileciendolo. Los que arrastran su matrimonio.

Son muchos los que han dado pie para este envilecimiento del matrimonio que ya resulta alarmante.

Antes de recurrir a lo sobrenatural, con lo que no se

cuenta para nada — repárese que en los mismos documentos civiles del matrimonio se habla del él como del "estado sagrado del matrimonio" — hay que revivir el verdadero concepto del amor.

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(Pasa a la Pagina 22B)



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"El Matrimonio Cristiano no lo forman dos personas. Hay un tercero entre los dos. El es Jesús." Padre Calvo

Cuando Se Tiene Amor

(Viene de la Pagina 21B)

"Dios, como te amo
Dios, como te amo
me brotan lágrimas
jamás pude en la vida
lograr un bien mayor."

Sóñar con el matrimonio, querer casarse, no es, como alguien istidiosamente ha escrito, "para los que tienen tan poca imaginación que no pueden imaginarse otro estado mejor que el matrimonio."

Buscar compañera o compañero para casarse, y realizar este sueño, es como cantara Jacques Breien "La luz brotará."

Hay que contrarrestar esta barbara invasión contra el unico reducto de esperanzas que le queda al mundo: La familia, el matrimonio, el hogar.

Y la mejor manera de hacerlo es con la presencia de matrimonios felices. Estos matrimonios felices. Estos no caen del cielo. Hay que hacerlos aqui en la tierra.

Y para un matrimonio feliz lo primero es una buena elección. Más importante que la edad para casarse; más importante que el problema económico para casarse; es la persona, la elección de la persona para casarse.

Para un matrimonio feliz

Cardenal Francés Destaca Valores del Matrimonio

Paris —(NA)— El cardenal Renard, arzobispo de Lyon, durante una conferencia ofrecida por las Asociaciones Familiares Católicas de Francia, destacó los valores del matrimonio, y las responsabilidades que conlleva.

"El matrimonio — dijo — es más un misterio de fe que un capitulo de la moral. El sacramento une al hombre y a la mujer en un amor de donación y fecundidad, que constituye para ambos el camino hacia la santidad."



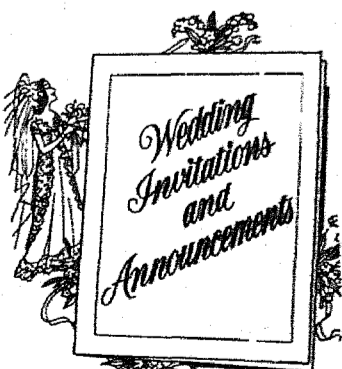
hace falta amor.

Amar es buscar el bien de la persona amada. Amar es hacer feliz al otro. El egoísmo es el cáncer del amor. La duda es el gusano del amor.

Para un matrimonio feliz hace falta dialogo, comunicación, conversación confidencial mantenida a lo largo de la vida, sin permitir que la rutina y el aburrimiento marchiten la planta del corazón.

Para un matrimonio feliz hacen falta cuerpos que se gusten y se atraigan, almas que se comprendan y se complementen; y un Dios que de sentido de eternidad a un amor que para ser verdadero, pide a gritos que sea para siempre.

Cuando haya hogares felices, a pesar de los problemas, que abran sus puertas para enseñar no precisamente sus allombras o sus muebles, o sus cuadros, sino su alegría y su unidad, estaremos reconquistando la verdadera imagen del matrimonio y nuestros jóvenes conocerán mejor la importancia de prepararse para el matrimonio.



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Amor Y Felicidad

Por Rosa Amelia y Gustavo Peña Monte

Durante los últimos años, el esposo y la esposa, cuando piden la bendición de la Arquidiócesis de Miami, llevándola a los jóvenes parejas que piden la bendición en el sacramento del matrimonio algunas de nuestras experiencias en la vida conyugal. Aquí recogemos algunas de las ideas que nos han llevado a plantearnos a estas parejas. (1, 2, 3)

re el amor a esa la vigencia de ese sacramento. Eso, dicho a parejas que impulsadas por el amor, van a recibir el sacramento del matrimonio y que naturalmente en el futuro encontrarán crisis y escollos en el camino difícil pero recompensador del matrimonio.

Pero ese escritor mencionaba a las parejas hoy empujadas que el sacramento del matrimonio es un canal de gracia, un compromiso de la pareja con Cristo y de Cristo con la pareja. No les decía que el sacramento que hoy a recibir era un canal de gracia a través del cual podían encontrar las fuerzas necesarias para superar todas las crisis y escollos que se presentarían en el camino de la vida que pronto emprenderían.

Así, para la muchacha que hoy escucha promesas de amor de su novio, y para la que todo es hoy romance y felicidad, todo eso terminará cuando surjan las primeras diferencias naturales en el seno hogareño, cuando se produzcan las primeras dificultades en el camino del acoplamiento mutuo, en el encuentro de dos psicologías, de dos caracteres, de dos personalidades distintas. Si ella leyó de un escritor católico que cuando muere el amor muere el matrimonio. Y no se le previno diciéndole que sobrevendrán crisis y dificultades, pero que esas crisis y dificultades tienen solución si sabemos comprender el plan de Dios para nuestras vidas, tienen solución si en verdad

delante su YO al NOSOTROS.

Si un slogan tiene que recordar constantemente la pareja enamorada que emprende el largo camino de dos vidas unidas conyugalmente, es que nunca el amor propio pueda más que el amor conyugal.

Gabriel Marcel da una bella definición del amor que debe ser recordada por las parejas que hoy hacen planes para casarse: Amar a alguien es tener una esperanza inagotable en ese alguien. El amor necesariamente tiene una dimensión futura. Ahora que ustedes se preparan para el matrimonio los dos hacen planes para el futuro. Cuando lleguen a los 50 años de casados deben seguir haciendo esos planes y esos sueños. Y no a los diez, a los cincuenta años, hay que seguir haciendo esos planes y esos sueños.

Louis Evelyn, en su libro "Amantes en Matrimonio," dice que "Amar significa depositar la confianza en otro."



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En el Matrimonio

dar crédito a esa otra persona. Cuando una mujer cree que ya conoce a su marido, cuando lo encasilla y lo clasifica, ya entonces no lo ama más. Cuando un marido cree que conoce a su mujer, cuando ya no es atento con ella y hacia ella, cuando ya no le habla o no la escucha, entonces ya no la ama más... Nosotros nos desarrollamos solamente, crecemos y nos damos a aquellos que creen en nosotros.

Y sobre la rutina, Evelyn advierte que el peor de los pecados es el pecado de omisión. "Un hogar no se destruye por discusiones ni por dificultades imprevistas, por crisis económicas ni aun por infidelidad. Lo que destruye un hogar es la raíz de la rutina. Cuando sin darse cuenta ustedes dejan de mirarse el uno al otro, o hablarse el uno al otro, a discutir el uno con el otro, entonces el hogar está en crisis."

Para los que hoy sueñan las campanas del amor, ya se habrán acercado los agoreros y los pesimistas a advertirles que no todo en el futuro será color de rosa como aparece hoy. "Deja que pasen unos cuantos años y ya verás como cambian las cosas," advierten muchos consejeros.

En verdad, es iluso pensar en un continuo camino de rosas en cualquier vocación de vida. Pero es precisamente en el saber vencer los escollos y en el superar los obstáculos que se presentan en el camino, que se siente la satisfacción del triunfo, la felicidad que sólo da el amor.

Amor y felicidad en el matrimonio no es un sueño de hadas, es algo real y tangible que día a día alcanzan y han alcanzado millones de parejas.

Pero hemos de ser cuidadosos al tomar el camino en busca de la felicidad. La felicidad en el matrimonio sólo puede darla el amor. ¿Vamos al matrimonio movidos por amor? Entonces habra felicidad, no importa la magnitud de las pruebas y de las dificultades que se interpongan en el camino.

ESPEJISMOS DE LA FELICIDAD

Todos vamos al matrimonio en busca de amor y felicidad. Porque, ciertamente, nadie quiere ser infeliz ni desdichado, ni aun hacer desdichados a otros. Todos vamos en pos de la felicidad, pero a veces lo hacemos con una forma de egoísmo, siguiendo espejismos de la felicidad.

La felicidad en el matrimonio supone entrega total, disposición a los mas grandes sacrificios.

Lamentablemente no es el amor la única senda que lleva a la union sagrada. A veces se va al matrimonio simplemente en busca de compañía. "Cualquier cosa antes que quedarse soltero, y, sobre todo, soltera".

"Casarse a toda costa". Y no se busca a la persona adecuada para la entrega mutua, el sacrificio mutuo y la comprensión mutua que exige el matrimonio.

¿Cuántas veces no se va al matrimonio por interés? Posición, fama, dinero? Cuántas veces a muchos hombres no los mueve más que el atractivo sexual de una mujer, de la que después se cansarán. Los matrimonios a la larga verán desvanecerse su espejismo. Sólo perduran los que se han fundado en el amor mutuo.

El verdadero amor se



En el Matrimonio, nunca dejemos que el amor propio pueda más que el amor mutuo, el "yo" más que el "nosotros".

comprueba cuando uno se siente movido a los más grandes sacrificios por el bien del ser que ama. No cuando buscamos algo en la otra persona, sino cuando estamos dispuestos a darlo todo—a darnos todo por esa persona.

Estamos muy acostumbrados al lenguaje de amor de las novelitas rosas. "Te necesito, te quiero (para mí)" "No puedo vivir sin ti". Un lenguaje egoísta del amor —"El idioma italiano tiene una palabra mas bella para expresar amor: "Te voglio bene", dicen ellos. Lo cual, traducido al español, quiere decir. "Quiero tu bien." Eso es, quiero lo mejor para ti; estoy dispuesto a dar lo mejor de mí para que tu sientas ese bien!"

CASARSE TODOS LOS DIAS

Hay amores que se marchitan con la rutina. En el matrimonio, para que triunfe y tienda a la felicidad, hay que casarse todos los días. Renovar todos los días el amor, buscar incentivos nuevos, alargar la luna de miel. En las muestras de afecto, en el cariño, sacando fruto de la reconciliación aun después de las nubecitas grises de las casi ineludibles discrepancias conyugales, en los hijos, en su educación y su crecimiento; aun en los planes de una vida de retiro llegada la vejez. Hay que renovar el amor todos los días.





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Britts	15B
Burdine's	2B
Carroll's Jewelers	14B
Jordan Marsh	7B
Mayor's Jewelers	6B
Richards	12B

BRIDAL WEAR — WEDDING GOWNS AND ACCESSORIES

Britts	15B
Burdine's	2B
Charlene's Bridal Salon	14B
Chic Parisien	11B
David's Inc.	13B
Dolinger's	8B
Jordan Marsh	7B
Richards	12B
Sybil's	16B
Teff's	9B

CATERERS & RECEPTIONS

Balmoral Hotel	19B
Crystal Lakes Country Club	13B
Deauville Hotel	2B
Doral Hotel & Country Club	12B
DuPont Plaza Hotel	4B
Fontainebleau Hotel	17B
Godfrey's Caterers	15B
Junior's Restaurants	6B
The Ledges Restaurant	19B
Master Host Caterers	3B
Paoletti's Restaurant	10B
Sheraton Four Ambassadors	9B
Sorrento Restaurant	22B

MEN'S WEAR — DRESS SUIT

SALES AND RENTAL

Al's Formal Wear	17B
Bernie Blanch's Men's Wear	11B
Classy Formals	5B
Gingiss	8B

FINANCIAL

Beneficial Finance	20B
Boulevard National Bank	17B
Charg-It of Fla., Inc.	16B
University Federal	10B

FLORISTS

Buning the Florist	4B
Dolly's Flowers	21B
D'Yera Flowers	23B
Flowers, Inc.	3B

FURRIERS

Adrian Thal Furriers	18B
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GIFTS

Ann Teaks	11B
Blums of Boca	13B
Britts	15B
Burdine's	2B
Carroll's Jewelers	14B
Espana	23B
Florida Power & Light	5B
Greenleaf & Crosby	4B
Hooper House	18B
Jordan Marsh	7B
Le Monde Jewelers	10B
Mayor's Jewelers	6B
Overholt Jewelers	9B
Party Box	20B
Pepe's Cards & Gifts	17B
Richards Dept. Store	12B
St. Paul Books	16B
Wellington Hall	3B

HAIR STYLISTS

J. Baldi Salons	5B
Wigs by Lenore	11B

HOME FURNISHINGS & ACCESSORIES

Ann Teaks	11B
Blums of Boca	13B
Britts	15B
Castro Convertibles	24B
Espana	23B
Hooper House	18B
Sealy Mattress Co.	16B
Wellington Hall	3B

HONEYMOON & TRAVEL

Balmoral Hotel	19B
Continental Travel	10B
Crystal Lakes Country Club & Lodge	13B
Deauville Hotel	2B
Doral Hotel & Country Club	12B
DuPont Plaza Hotel	4B
Fontainebleau Hotel	17B
La Concha Hotel	2B
Santa Maria Steamship	20B
Sheraton Four Ambassadors	9B
Southport Travel	15B
Union Travel	14B

INVITATIONS — PRINTING SERVICES

Pepe's Cards	17B
Snyder Printing	18B
Ventura Printing	22B

JEWELERS

Carrolls Jewelers	14B
Greenleaf & Crosby	4B
Le Monde Jewelers	10B
Mayor's Jewelers	6B
Overholt Jewelers	9B

ORCHESTRAS

Bob Novack Orchestras	15B
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PARTY RENTALS

Thomas Tent and Rentals	21B
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PHOTOGRAPHERS

Gort Photography	21B
Richards Color Portrait Studio	19B

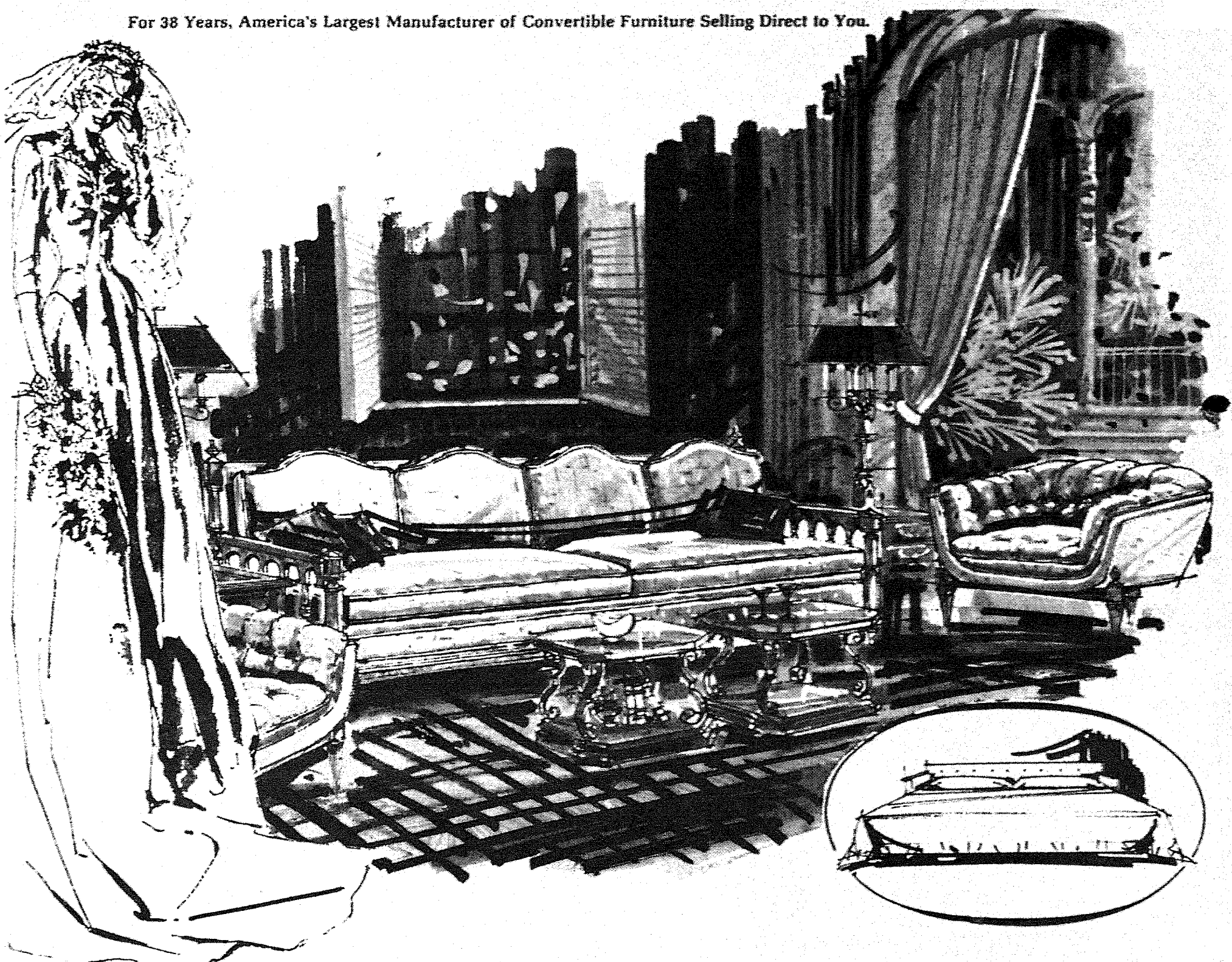
SHOE SALONS

Carnegie Shoes	18B
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WOMEN'S WEAR

Adrian Thal Furriers	18B
Britts	15B
Burdine's	2B
Carnegie Shoes	18B
Charlene's Bridal Salon	14B
Chic Parisien	11B
David's Inc.	13B
Dolinger's	8B
Heir Apparent	14B
Jordan Marsh	7B
Richards	12B
Sybil's	16B
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