

Two Weddings For A Prince?

"How come Grace Kelly and Prince Ranier of Monaco will have a civil marriage rite the day before the church wedding?"



"I thought Catholics commit a mortal sin if they go through a marriage ceremony before a civil official."

Comments like these are made when there is discussion of the scheduled double April rites for the American actress and the European prince. What is the answer?



Matrimony is both a sacrament and a civil contract. The Church has exclusive authority over Christ's sacraments and so it requires that Catholics be married only in the presence of a priest.

Since marriage is also a civil contract, a country has the right to make laws concerning registration, property rights, etc. Some countries also require that there be some kind of marriage rite in the presence of a civil official. England, Germany, as also Monaco, have such a law.

In countries where a civil marriage rite is required, the Church permits Catholics to observe the law but they cannot consider themselves married until they receive the sacrament in the presence of a priest.

Grace Kelly and Prince Ranier will go through the civil ceremony required by Monaco law on the day before their church wedding somewhat in the same way as American couples apply to a civil official to obtain a marriage license.

They will not be husband and wife until the actual church service. The civil ceremony will simply be a legal formality.

In a nation like our own which does not require a civil marriage ceremony, Catholics who attempt marriage before a justice of the peace or any other civil official are not actually married and cannot consider themselves as truly husband and wife.

It still remains true for every Catholic, whether rich or poor, prince or pauper, that Catholics are truly married only in the presence of a priest.

JOSEPH BREIG

Liar and the Risen Christ

Borrowing from Alice in Wonderland allow me to say that the longer I live, the curiousest and curiousest the world situation looks.

Each year at this time, a kind of incredulity comes to me. I shrink from accepting the fact that after 20 centuries, millions still do not believe in Christ.

It seems almost too preposterous to be true. It would indeed be too preposterous but for one other fact—the fact that lies are told. Lies have been the great enemy of Christianity from the beginning.

And the Devil is the father of falsehood. The falsifiers began their sowing of Christ — it would be better to say their jackaling and hyenas — almost from the start of His public ministry.

They tried in every way to entrap Him, to trip Him up, to catch Him, to turn people against Him. They whispered, conspired, defamed, belittled.

They put a wrong construction on everything He said and did. Their souls were eaten with envy, hatred, selfishness, greed, hypocrisy.

Wickedness was being confronted by limitless good, and wickedness repaid. The one thing wickedness cannot endure is goodness.

THE FURNACE of this loathing of goodness burned hotter and hotter in the enemies of Christ. And Christ knew them for what they were.

With everybody else He was tender, forgiving, human weakness drew from Him infinite compassion. He loved foolish Peter, he loved sinful Magdalene.

His harsh words were for the hard, the hypocrites, the whitened sepulchers. "Ye tougers" lashed them unmercifully for their calculated falseness.

They went on lying. They lied to get Him into their power. They brought lying witnesses against Him.

They lied before Pilate, and they lied to the people to stir them up to demand His blood. Their lies sent Him to death on the Cross.

THEN HE ROSE from the dead. He came back to life — not to destructible life, but to indestructible life. He rose glorious, immortal, conqueror of death, immune to injury or illness or age or pain.

He did rise. No historical fact is so firmly proved. No fact has been attacked one-thousandth as much. And yet it stands forth most unbreakable than ever...

Christ rose. In rising, He proved Himself to be what He had said He was — the Redeemer, God incarnate.

But the liars did not accept the fact; they did not accept Him.

IT WAS NOT to the interest of wickedness to let the world turn to goodness; to let the Kingdom of God be established.

They went on lying. They have been lying ever since. And that is why, each Good Friday and Easter, we face the incredible fact that millions are not members of the Church Christ established.

TODAY, THERE still confronts us the strange phenomenon of a system of government, of a world-wide conspiracy, of a philosophy, which has lies for its very purpose and its very life; which feeds on lies and exists to lie.

In communism we see falsehood naked, unashamed and aggressive. It is a colossal system of lies which asserts that lying is better than truth when lying serves communism. And yet people — poor, blind people — continue to be deceived by it.

It is nearly unbelievable, but it is there. Nevertheless, Christ did rise. Christ did triumph. Christ remains with us in His Church, and Christ will conquer. Each Easter is a new pledge of that.



'He is Risen' The angel's message to the holy women on the first Easter morning will be repeated in sermons throughout the Christian world this Sunday. Christ's resurrection, pivotal doctrine of the Christian faith, will be marked at Easter Vigil rites late Holy Saturday night and during Masses on Sunday morning.

Christ's Resurrection

Basic Doctrine Of Christian Faith

By REV. HENRY ATWELL

THE GOSPEL does not describe the resurrection of Jesus.

This is somewhat strange since Christ had arranged that witnesses should see His miracles of raising others from the dead. Jesus took Peter, James and John to watch as He raised the daughter of Jairus back to life.

There was a throng of witnesses to see Him restore life to the widow's son at Nain, and again when Lazarus came forth from the tomb.

FOR HIS OWN resurrection, however, Christ would have no one present to see Him change the course of history, to prove His teachings and His claims by stepping alive from the now most famous grave in the world.

The gospel writers are precise. They report only what they saw or heard from eye-witnesses. Their story is factual and describes the events of the first Easter morning.

Since Jesus had died near evening on Friday, His burial had to be done quickly.

HOLY WOMEN who had ministered to Christ in life now had to wait out the sabbath before

embalming the body as Jewish custom required.

Even before dawn on Sunday the first work day of the week in the Jewish world, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb, saw the stone that closed it had been rolled back. She ran back to Peter and told him. "They have taken the Lord from the tomb!"

During this time other women had been buying the needed spices for the embalming and when they came to the tomb shortly after dawn they met the white clad angel who told them, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen even as He said."

PETER AND JOHN, alerted by Mary Magdalene, came running to the tomb, entered and found the burial-linens carefully folded off to one side.

Apparently the first to realize the significance of what had happened and believed in the fact of Christ's resurrection.

Mary Magdalene and the women still thought somebody had stolen the body and they were disturbed and saddened by that thought.

While the Magdalene wept at the empty tomb, Christ appeared to her but at first she did not recognize Him through her tears. When He spoke her name, "Mary," she adored the risen Savior and hastened to notify the Apostles. "I have seen the Lord."

During the next forty days Jesus appeared to His Apostles and to hundreds of His disciples to dispel all doubts in their minds.

He ate with them, showed them His wounds, and spoke with them in intimate conversation.

FOR THE NEXT 300 years, Easter was the only feast in the Christian Church. Its message, the message of the angel, that Christ had risen from the dead was such a tremendous truth that it permeated the minds and inspired the faith of Christians for three centuries.

Christ's resurrection remains as the basic truth of our Christian faith because it assures us that we follow a victorious king and have the promise of a resurrection of our own awaiting us on the last day.

Edmund Wilson, in an article in the New Yorker, alleges that the scrolls indicate that Christianity originated in the Qumran community fifty years before Christ was born.

In Philadelphia, Dr. Solomon Zeitlin, editor of a Jewish scientific magazine, commented that in his opinion the scrolls do not even date back to the time of Christ at all but were written in the Middle Ages by "uneducated Jews."

Catholic scholar Professor Sabatino Moscati of Rome also rejected the idea that Christianity was in any way "derived" from the Qumran monks.

Another Jewish scholar, Dr. Samuel Sandmel of Cincinnati has stated that the scrolls "provide not one single point of departure for any need to reconsider or to revise any theories about Christian origins."

EXTENSIVE STUDY of the scrolls is currently being made by Father Roland de Vaux, O.P., director of the Ecole Biblique Francaise, and Monsignor Patrick W. Sheehan of Catholic University, Washington. Both are members of a five man committee of international experts assigned to decipher the parchment fragments.

Religious experts have expressed the opinion that the scrolls date from the time before Christ and will help clarify the terms and ideas used in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

"All conclusion so far are tentative," said Presbyterian Dr. John S. Bonnell of New York, "and the last word has by no means been said."

Continued research by scholars promises to provide new insights into a better understanding of our Christian faith.

The SPOTLIGHT

By REV. WM. J. SMITH, S.J.

"RIGHT TO SELL" It would come as a startling revelation to most businessmen, even to Catholic employers of deep integrity and pious spiritual life, if they were to hear the proposition: "In an integrated and inter-dependent commercial system no man has a right to sell as he pleases."

The statement, nevertheless, would be true. It is a simple and logical deduction from the nature and definition of Social Justice.

A NATIVE of the Fiji Islands, as an isolated individual, unhindered by the responsibilities of competition with fellow Fiji Islanders, might trade coconuts for corn or fish on a man-to-man basis with a fellow native.

He would have no obligation to cooperate with others in the establishing of standards of conduct and bringing about a balanced set of social relationships.

It would suffice for him to be fair to the man with whom he trades according to the light of his conscience. In his primitive condition he has no one to harm or to support, and he would be free to use his property as he pleased.

WHEN MANY men engage in commercial activity in a particular industry, however, the actions of any one of them might work a hardship upon all the others. Each one of that group has a social obligation to refrain from anti-social transactions which would prove harmful to all the others.

The Vices of Christ, in their role of spokesmen for God, insist that a virtue called Social Justice must be exercised if right reason is to be properly applied to inter-related human activities.

The singular purpose of competition is not an exclusive accumulation of profits for one or more individuals at the expense of social justice with resultant harm to fellow human beings. The true purpose of competition is to establish a just price for a product that is sold through the free, but conscience-controlled, actions of human beings.

Men do not live that way, we are told, and the world of business just isn't run along those lines. "That," we reply, "is just too bad for men and the world in which they live."

For a Christian businessman meeting unjust competition while maintaining Christian principles himself, it can be the cost of carrying the Cross of Christ.

In an inter-dependent segment of society, no matter what its nature, no man has a right to act just as he pleases.

In the civilized state of society in which we live today, no man has a "right to sell" as he pleases any more than a man has a "right to work" as he pleases.

Consider now these effects and realize the serious potentialities for harm which may come as a result of their manipulation by a neurotic, unscrupulous or unskilled operator.

Realize also that in the operator there is generated a feeling of power—a feeling that he now has control over another person, that another being is enslaved to him and can move only at his command. He will be reluctant to give up such power. He will want to repeat the performance.

Aside from this feeling of power, serious harm may arise when attempts are made to hypnotize individuals who are borderline mental cases. It may activate neuroses, produce serious anxieties and increase the suggestibility of others. It is an instrument only for those skilled in its use.

Hypnotism as a therapy would seem to be one peculiarly adapted to the use of competent and conscientious psychiatrists.

A RECENT POLL of the psychiatrists in a large city found that none were using it routinely in their practices. Most of them felt that there were but few indications for its use. This in spite of the fact that, in expert hands, I would consider its use quite safe.

I am often asked whether an individual can be made to do in the hypnotic state what he would not do were he in full possession of his faculties. The usual answer to this question is that he cannot be made to DO anything which would be repugnant to him in his normal consciousness. We must remember, however, that many things may not be repugnant to the unconscious mind and that although the subject may not DO things which he would not normally do in the trance he may not be able to resist actions which are DONE to him.

Without unduly prolonging this discussion, I feel that responsible people should do everything in their power to prevent the potential damage to individuals which may come about as a result of the current craze for amateur hypnotism.

I would call to your attention the constant teaching of moral theologians in regard to the use of hypnotism. They have taught that hypnotism should be used only by a person skilled in its use who can be trusted to use hypnotism only for lawful purposes and only in a lawful manner, and in the presence of a witness.

Not For Amateurs

Hypnotism 'Never Safe,' Warns Noted Psychiatrist

By JOHN R. CAVANAUGH, M.D. (N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

(The following article has a special timeliness. In the wake of the publication of a book entitled "The Search for Bridget Murphy," it is reported that parlor hypnotic sessions are being held in increasing numbers in all parts of the country, and that the sales of books dealing with hypnotism have multiplied many times. Many of those purchasing these volumes do not ordinarily buy books, it is said. These developments are taken to indicate a great increase of interest in amateur hypnotism. The author of this article is a Catholic and a prominent psychiatrist of Washington, D. C.)

Hypnotism by an amateur is not a safe procedure. Would you consider allowing an amateur to give you an anesthetic or an electroshock treatment? The result is either of these procedures is to deprive one of consciousness.

But so is the aim of hypnotism. It is never safe to deprive anyone of his consciousness. It should be done, therefore, only by those skilled in its use and for a serious purpose. In the hands of a skilled professional person, all of these procedures have a proper place. So has hypnotism. It is not, however, a procedure for the amateur.

THE HYPNOTIZED person is, most of all, suggestible; he has increased muscle strength, his skin and mucous membranes are anaesthetic, his special senses are increased in acuity, he acts as an automaton under the will of the hypnotist, although he may often say "no" and refuse to act.

POST-HYPNOTIC suggestion may cause him to act after he awakens, this being accomplished in an atmosphere determined by the hypnotist. On awakening, the subject may retain no memory of anything which transpired during sleep. Although the first attempt to hypnotize may be difficult, each succeeding attempt is easier to perform and each time less consent is required on the part of the subject.

Consider now these effects and realize the serious potentialities for harm which may come as a result of their manipulation by a neurotic, unscrupulous or unskilled operator.

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Daily Mass Calendar

Sunday, April 1 — Easter Sunday, feast of the Resurrection of our Lord (white); Gloria, Sequence, Creed, Easter Preface and Canon prayers.
Monday through Saturday, April 2 to April 7 — Special Mass for each day as in Missal (white).
Gloria, Sequence, Creed, Easter Preface and Canon Prayers.

French Highways List Mass Hours

Orleans, France — (NC) — Signs telling the location of the nearest church and the hours of Masses will soon be placed along the principal highways of the Orleans diocese.

Scholars Debate Meaning Of Dead Sea Scrolls

Fragments of a new set of manuscripts found along the shores of the Dead Sea in Palestine describe a communion-rite and other Christian practices in vogue fifty years before the birth of Christ, according to an English radio commentator and an American author.

Catholic experts have replied that such a claim is an "unproved thesis."

The debate centers on remnants of scrolls found in 1947 in a cave on the western shore of the Dead Sea.

During the past week another find was reported in newly excavated ruins of King Herod's palace on the southwestern shores of the Dead Sea.

Since 1947 a whole series of important discoveries have been made by archeologists in the same region. The fragments have been called the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Since 1947 experts have been engaged in unrolling and translating the fragments.

The scrolls are said to have been written about 2,000 years ago.

One of the largest of the scrolls is a four page portion of the Bible's Book of Genesis.

PRESENT DAY translations of this book, experts say, are so close to the recently discovered scrolls that it testifies to the astonishing accuracy with which Old Testament writings have been handed down to the present day.

Other scrolls describe traditions and practices of the Qumran community, a Jewish religious group which led a life vaguely similar to modern monks.

Professor John Allegro of England's Manchester University in two radio broadcasts in January said that the scrolls gave evi-

Sunday Sermon

'He has risen!'

Easter Sunday

Jesus came to earth not just to die as most every other mere mortal. Jesus came to triumph over death and so Good Friday is not complete without the story of Easter Sunday.

Details concerning our Lord's resurrection are not told us by the four gospel writers.

The one tremendous fact that Christ rose from the dead, that is the truth that is taught us. Incidental details concerning when or how Christ rose are glossed over as insignificant.

IN THE GOSPEL for Easter Sunday, St. Mark describes how the holy women went early Sunday morning to the tomb. They asked themselves who would roll away the huge stone from the tomb's entrance for them.

"And looking up they saw that the stone had been rolled back... and they saw a young man sitting at the right side."

The angel told them not to be frightened, "You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here. Behold the place where they laid Him."

The holy women gazed at the empty tomb, hardly able to believe the fact of what they knew had to be true.

Christ did not leave the empty tomb as the only proof of His resurrection, however.

Later that same Eastern morning, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, then to two of the disciples on their way to Emmaus, and finally to His Apostles. Christian writers also state that Jesus most surely appeared to His Blessed Mother, although Scripture makes no mention of the fact.

During the next forty days, Christ appeared many times to His Apostles and to groups numbering hundreds of witnesses.

THIS MYSTERY of the resurrection is the pivotal doctrine of Christian faith and proves that Christ's death was what He claimed it would be — a redemption for many!

Easter is the divine seal of approval, the official act of acceptance of Christ's death on the cross. It is the basis of our faith, the source of our hope that some day we too may share in the triumph of a victory over death by attaining life with Christ forever in heaven.

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