

Why Does The Church Harp So Much On The Evils Of Mixed Marriage?

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Why is the Church always harping on the evils of mixed marriage? I know of several right in our neighborhood which are very successful. Besides, some of the nicest boys I know are non-Catholics. How is our faith going to be known if Catholic young people can't date with those of a different religion?

YOU KNOW, MAISIE, there are a lot of people who share your views. According to interviews and public opinion polls, a good percentage of Americans—Catholic and non-Catholic—feel that there are few hazards connected with mixed marriage.

This is all the more startling because religious leaders, Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish, have constantly warned their flocks about the dangers of such unions. This raises the interesting question: Is anybody listening?

Let's look at the known facts about mixed marriage. Extensive studies conducted by sociologists show conclusively that mixed marriages are harmful to the faith of the Catholic party.

Stated in broad figures, approximately 45 per cent of the Catholics involved in valid mixed marriage have either severed all connection with the Church or attend Church services very sporadically. Likewise, the religious training of children suffers in such marriages.

A conservative estimate would be that roughly 40 per cent of the children born to such unions are either unbaptized, or baptized in the Protestant church, or are baptized only, that is, they receive no formal instruction in the faith.

Finally, although a considerable number of partners join the Church before marriage, relatively few are converted during the marriage.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE sources of trouble in mixed marriages? First, it hinders the spiritual unity of the couple. The Catholic partner must pray alone, attend Church services alone, approach the communion rail alone, and remain unshared, a whole world of spiritual experiences and values.

Second, there is lack of



agreement concerning the religious training of children.

Third, church loyalties in regard to time, interest, and money are divided and can lead to quarrels.

Fourth, there may be rejection of positive interference from in-laws.

Fifth, and most important, differences in religion produce basic differences in value systems which love cannot resolve.

Catholics have distinct beliefs concerning the indissolubility of marriage, marital fidelity, the use of contraceptives, and so on.

Although many Protestants hold these same values as ideals, the great majority feel that they can be ignored in exceptional circumstances. The Catholic partner can never agree to such an interpretation of divine teaching.

What about dating non-Catholics? The answer is simple. In the normal course of events, dating leads to courtship and marriage. If you wish to avoid getting involved in a mixed marriage, you must logically avoid dating non-Catholics.

I realize that it is common to use the facile excuse that you are "only" dating, but when does one draw the line between dating and becoming emotionally involved or falling in love?

Once you have reached this

Two Admit Anti-Catholic Election Role

Denver — (RNS) — Two men admitted responsibility for distributing anti-Catholic literature in last November's election campaign when they appeared in U.S. District Court here.

Clarence M. Stafford, 62, a Republican precinct committeeman and former city councilman, pleaded guilty to mailing the circulars. E. Page Wingate, 67, admitted ordering the printing of the circulars through Stafford's printing firm.

WINGATE REFUSED to answer reporters' questions about his association with Stafford or his own background. Court observers said he's a friend and customer of Stafford. A political unknown, he is listed in the "City Directory" as a used car salesman.

U. S. District Attorney Donald E. Kelley said the pair violated a federal law banning "anonymous writings" in election campaigns. The circulars urged the election of non-Catholic candidates who "believe in and will support separation of Church and State and WILL NOT accept orders or directives from any foreign Totalitarian Authority."

ALL BUT ONE of the four Catholics who ran for major state offices were elected, and Democrat John A. Carroll, a non-Catholic whose wife is a Catholic, was elected to the Senate over Dan Thornton, a Republican, whom the circulars supported.

Vatican Names Notre Dame Head

Notre Dame, Ind. — (RNS) — The Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president of the University of Notre Dame, has been named by Pope Pius XII as the permanent representative of Vatican City to the new International Atomic Energy Agency.

stage, experience shows that it is not easy to break up.

THIS SUGGESTS one further point against dating non-Catholics. It always involves the danger of invalid marriage, that is, of attempting marriage outside the Church. Our studies show that somewhere between one-third and one-half of all mixed unions are invalid.

No doubt, many of the Catholics involved in these unions started out by "only" dating non-Catholics, but the casual date became a "steady" and love followed.

Are you listening, Maisie? Or will you be one of the many thousands who complain, "Why didn't you warn us?"



Medal For Job Well Done

Brigadier General Sidney C. Wooten, center, Commanding General of the New Jersey Military District, and Commandant of the Kilmer Reception Center for Hungarian refugees, receives the Papal Benemerite Medal from Kilmer Chaplain (Capt.) John Kosky, New York City. The Medal was presented for "humanitarian service." (NC Photos)

Rochester Missionary Cites 'Power Of The Press'

Santa Cruz, Bolivia — "Oh What a Beautiful Morning" is a hit song from the hit play, "Oklahoma", and that's what Della, a young school marm sings here after learning what an Oklahoma has done for her.

Sometime ago, Father James P. Courmeau, Maryknoll Missioner from Rochester, N.Y., wrote a note to Catholic papers explaining the great work Della is doing.

Teaching in a priest-less town, Della trained a class of poor children for their First Communion and then sacrificed

her own month's salary to outfit the entire class.

"An Oklahoma reading of Della's plight in the Catholic press has sent along a donation that more than covers the girl's salary," explains Father Courmeau.

"And, needless to say, Della now thinks Oklahoma is the greatest place in the world."

Grants Offered Hospital Chaplains

New York — (NC) — A Grant Foundation has been announced from the William J. Wollman of \$50,000 to Fordham University by Father John G. Furniss, S.J., national director of the Fordham University Development Fund.

American Priest Attacked

Moscow Paper Calls Thomism 'Capitalist'

Berlin — (NC) — Teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas are "bourgeois capitalism" and social action programs based on them by an American priest are outmoded, a Moscow journal has charged.

The Communist Moscow's leading philosophical journal, published an "evaluation" of the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas and its application in various spheres of modern thought by contemporary philosophers.

ACCORDING TO the Russian periodical, St. Thomas anticipated the fall of feudalism and the rise of capitalism. He prepared a philosophy in keeping with the middle class ideals.

the article charged, and contemporary philosophers in France, Italy and the United States in particular are reviving his "old-fashioned ideas."

Among contemporary followers of St. Thomas, the Communist mentioned Etienne Gilson, Jacques Maritain and Karl Adam. It cited Sulplian Father John F. Cronin, assistant director of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference as a leading representative of the American school of Neo-Thomist thought.

Father Cronin is attacked for making harmony between capital and labor the goal of his work. "Such an ideal is old-fashioned and fruitless," the

article said. The victory of the working classes in the inevitable struggle between capital and labor is merely put off to a later time by such tactics, it stated.

THOMISM is founded on religious superstition, according to the journal. Father Cronin's dependence on what the journal calls "such a narcotic of the people" is illustrated by a quotation from one of his works: "The social problem is above everything else a moral and spiritual problem."

The journal interpreted this to mean that only a morally self-sufficient person can work effectively to bring about social change. This, it charged, is obviously untrue.

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Rockville Centre Bishop Installed

Rockville, Centre, N.Y. — (NC) — In ceremonies, solemn and colorful, the Most Rev. Walter P. Kellenberg was installed here Monday (May 27) as the first bishop of the newly established Diocese of Rockville Centre.

His Excellency Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey attended the ceremony for the Rochester Diocese.

The ritual took place in St. Agnes Cathedral and began with a pontifical procession.

SOME 1,300 persons packed the cathedral and saw Cardinal Spellman escort Bishop Kellenberg to his episcopal throne on the Gospel side of the sanctuary — the act which symbolized the new bishop taking "canonical possession" of his diocese.

The cathedral ceremonies were an impressive continuation of the welcome accorded Bishop Kellenberg upon his arrival here the previous day. Enroute his motorcade was greeted with shouts and cheers from well-wishers who lined the sidewalks of towns neighboring Rockville Centre. The Mayors of Valley Stream, Lynbrook and East Rockaway extended official greetings of their respective communities as the Bishop arrived.

WHEN THE BISHOP'S party entered Rockville Centre, it was met by an escort of civic, veteran and patriotic organizations and the students from St. Agnes elementary and high schools.

At the cathedral rectory, the Bishop exchanged greetings with the 91-year-old rector, Msgr. Peter Quenly. Bishop Kellenberg requested Msgr. Quenly's blessing and in turn gave his episcopal blessing to the venerable rector.

Following this exchange, Bishop Kellenberg presented his credentials to officials of the diocese. He then proceeded to St. Agnes Cathedral, where he spent some time praying privately before the main altar.

From there the Bishop went to the Municipal Building and received the official greetings of Rockville Centre's Mayor and village officials. Expressing his gratitude for the warm reception, the Bishop gave his episcopal blessing to all present. The day's festivities ended with a community parade passing in review for Bishop Kellenberg and town officials.

BORN AND educated in New York City, Bishop Kellenberg will be 56 on June 3. Rated as an able administrator, he has served as a curate, as Chancellor of the Archdiocese of New York and as the sixth Bishop of Ogdensburg, N. Y.

His Holiness Pope Pius XII appointed him to the Ogdensburg See on January 19, 1954, to succeed Bishop Bryan J. McEntegart, who had been named rector of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Bishop McEntegart will be installed as Bishop of Brooklyn on June 13.

The new Diocese of Rockville Centre was created by Pope Pius XII on April 18. It was formerly part of the Diocese of Brooklyn, which was divided after the death of Archbishop Thomas E. Molloy for many years Bishop of Brooklyn.

Wife Entreats St. Anthony Finds Lost Wedding Ring

Spillville, Iowa — (NC) — What's a wedding anniversary to a woman who has lost her wedding ring?

Ask Mrs. John Nowak of Spillville, who frantically looked forward to that situation since last September, when the band slipped off her finger while she was working on a test plot on the family's farm west of here.

The ring's absence was noticed while the Nowak family was on the way home. A search of the field failed to turn up the ring. It seemed as if St. Anthony, patron of things lost, also had failed.

Mrs. Nowak mused that if would be miraculous if she were to find her ring in the field as she was walking there. She looked down, saw some

thing glittering. She stopped and put the long lost band on the proper finger. St. Anthony came through the day before the Nowaks' 23rd wedding anniversary.

Salina, Kansas, Bishop Buried

Salina, Kan. — (NC) — Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass for Bishop Frank A. Thill of Salina was offered in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart here, followed by burial in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Archbishop Edward J. Hunkler of Kansas City in Kansas, offered the Mass. Victim of a heart condition, Bishop Thill, 63, died (May 21) in St. John's Hospital here.

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