Marriage and Church... a Direct Link

By Father Roy J. Kiggins

Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira Southern Tier Director, Family Life

There is a very intimate associationbetween marriage and the Catholic Church. The reason for this becomes apparent if we take time to examine the biblical vision of man and marriage. Since God's revelation has much to say about marriage, it follows that the Church's constant desire has been that the marriages of its members reflect the relevant biblical statements. The biblican vision of marriage has guided the Church's marital doctrine and legislation as they developed over the centuries.

The Old Testament had great optinism for everything created by God. Since it considered marriage as a part of God's creative plan, not even abuses ould prevent the Old Testament from viewing marriage as a basically good institution

The New Testament emphasized the eality of sin and the resulting need for a redemption. While the Old Testament was content to view marriage is a result of God's beneficent creative activity, the New Testament saw if as i human relationship that needed to be redeemed and perfected by Christ.

> Christians are recreated rough the Sacrament marriage relationship



Father Roy J. Kiggins

of husband and wife is recreated and redeemed through the Sacrament of Matrimony.

fact that marriage is a life-long commitment, an unbreakable bond between husband and wife. In the words of Christ, "Man must not separate what God has joined together." (Matt. 19: 6). This life-long and unconditional surrender of a couple to each other, made as it is without any precise knowledge of what the future may

hold, became the focal point for Christian reflection on the nature of marriage. A preliminary glance shows that the Church's understanding of marriage has developed along two linestheological and juridical.

The theology of marriage took its first big step with St Augustine. Until this saint's time, scholars took the indissolubility of marriage for granted and contented themselves outlining the moral precepts affecting marriage. However Augustine devled into the underlying reality of marriage in quest of the source of its indissolubility. Ultimately Augustine reached the conclusion that marriage's indissolubility derived from the fact that it was a sign of Christ's union with his Church. He reasoned that if marriage was to mirror Christ's unbreakable union with his Church, it also had to be an unbreakable union

Augustine's conclusions set the pace until the 11th century. Then there was a flowering of theological investigation. The studies of the scholars of that era caused them to advance beyond the conclusions of Augustine. The marital relationship, in their estimation, was more than a mere reflection of Christ's union with his Church.

They believed that Christ had perfected the marriage pact to the point that it recreated, on the occasion of a couple's exchange of vows, the union.

of Christ and his Church. In other words, just as there is within the very union of Christ and his Church the impossibility of dissolution so there is within the very union of a Christian husband and wife the same impossibility of dissolution

The contrast between Augustine and the medieval Schoolmen is best indicated in this way: where Augustine maintained that the dissolution of marriage was not permissible, the Schoolmen went a step further and held that its dissolution was not even possible.

A final stage of theological precision came with St. Thomas Aguinas. He emphasized that marriage was a sacrament not simply because of its basic indissolubility, but rather because the Christian marital bond carried within it the guarantee of God's aiding grace.

The Church's juridical approach to marriage has undergone a constant development. Bear in mind, however, that the process by which marriage came more and more under Church control went on pretty much independently of the gradual theological appreciation of marriage's being a sacrament. The Church's juridical concern with marriage could be charted

1) In the first centuries after Christ, the marriages of baptized Christians ere celebrated like those of unban-

MODERN

as if the chase were ended and one (Continued on Page 27A) had bagged the game. When persons

The following is extracted from Bish-

op Sheen's book 'Three to Get Mar-

By Bishop Fulton 1. Sheen

lest of human love when one "gets

used" to the best. Jewelers lose the

thrill of seeing precious stones.

There comes a moment in the nob-

There must always be a mystery in

life. Once it disappears, life becomes

banal. One wonders if the reason for

the popularity of murder mysteries

closed and unrevealed in life, there is

no longer a joy in tiving. The zest of

life partly comes from the fact that

there is a door that is yet unopened, a

veil that has not yet heen lifted, a note

Marriage often ends the romance,

Keepsake

that has not yet been struck.

today is because

they fill up the void

created by the loss

of the mysteries of

faith. The extreme

interest in murder

mysteries is a sign

that people are

most interested in

how a person is

killed than in the

eternal lot of the

So long as there

one who is killed.

Family: The Training School for Democracy

are taken for granted, then is lost all the sensitiveness and delicacy which is the essential condition of friendship and joy. This is particularly true in some marriages where there is pos-

the thrill of the chase. The Christian way of preserving mystery, and therefore attractiveness, is through the unfolding of love into the next generation, which is what we mean by making it triune.

Choice of Rochester's Loveliest Brides . . .

session without desire, capture without

Modern life is geared to the idea that beauty in a woman and strength All the mechanics of modern advertising are directed to this lie.

If a man eats certain kinds of crunchy, cracky food, he is told that The can take ten strokes off his golf, and that if he swallows a few pills, he will no longer have a fine head of skin. The woman, in her turn, is told that beauty can be a permanent possession, and

Open Tuesdays and Thursdays 'Til 9

that her rough laundry hands, her unattractive smile, can all be remedied by a tube of this or that; or she is led to believe that after a few days of diet she will no longer be a victim of circumference, and will not look as if she had turned forty, but as if she had returned to twenty.

Despite all this propaganda for the fixity of strength and beauty, it often happens that, a year or two after marriage the husband no longer seems to be that strong brave Apollo who made end runs on the football team on Saturday afternoons, or who came home from war with three stars on his chest. One day the wife asks him to help wash the dishes and he retorts: "That's a woman's job, not mine." In her turn. she no longer seems to him as beautiful as the first day of the honeymoon. Her baby talk that once seemed so cute, now begins to get on his nerves. Then it is that some couples feel there is no longer any love, because there is no

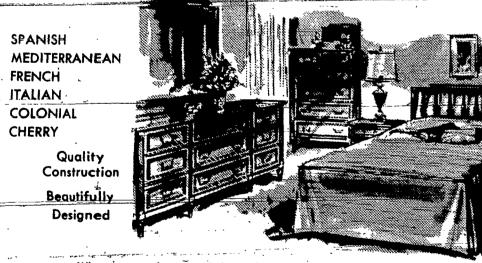
God did not intend that strength in a man and beauty in a woman endure, but that they should reappear in their children. Here is where God's Providence reveals itself. Just at a time when it might seem that beauty is fading in one, and strength in the other, God sends children to protect and re-

(Continued on Page 31A)

Frenchman & Sweet's

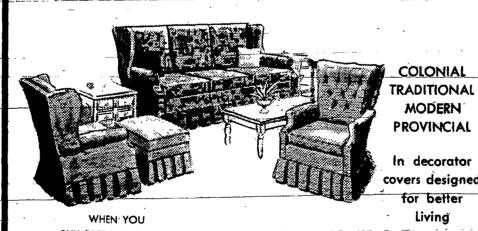
Specials

BEDROOM SUITES



Young Homemaker

LIVING ROOM SUITES



FREE: 5-PC. KITCHEN SET

FRENCHMAN

& SWEET

2 BIG LOCATIONS 53 CANAL ST. 368 STATE ST. (Off 420 W. Main) (Opposite Kodak Office) Open 9-9 Mon. Tue. Thurs. - Fri. Open 9-9 Tues.-Thurs. Wed. & Sat. 9-5 Other Days inc. Sat. Phone 328-5100 FREE PARKING BUDGET TERMS

CARPETS FOR EVERY ROOM IN YOUR HOME As Low As \$4.88 sq. yd.

PLEASE BRING IN THIS AD FOR IDENTIFICATION WHEN YOU SHOP AND RECEIVE A LANE MINIATURE CHEST.

Keepsake



THE DIAMOND WITH THE GUARANTEED

Flawless Center Diamond

(Or replacement assured by Keepsake and Harmin's)

PLUS all these other exclusive features!

All Keepsake diamonds are protected against loss from settings for one full year.

Each ring carries a lifetime trade-in privilege. Permanent registration . . all at no extra cost.

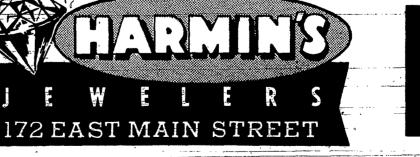
Choose from Rochester's finest selection TAKE A FULL YEAR TO PAY

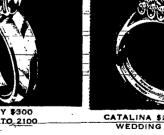






LEE \$250 WEDDING RING 87.50





Courier-Iournal March 14, 1969

March 14, 1969 Courier-Journal 7A