

Risks Poor for Youthful Marriages, Study Shows

New rules on youthful marriage issued recently by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan preceded by only a short time a federal Census Bureau report saying that those who marry young are twice as likely to be divorced as are older couples.

In regulations issued by the diocesan Marriage Tribunal, Bishop Hogan instructed priests under his jurisdiction to make deliberate investigations into the maturity of any couple seeking to contract marriage, if they are of an age where state law

requires parental consent.

The Census Bureau study, "Social and Economic Variations in Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage," released on Oct. 10, says, according to Jack Rosenthal in the New York Times, that 28 per cent of men who had married before age 22 had been divorced at least once within 20 years of marriage.

In contrast, said the bureau, only 13 per cent of men who married after age 22 were later divorced.

The same pattern was found in the statistics on women. Those married before age 20 suffered a 27 per cent divorce rate, while the rate for women who married later in life was only 14 per cent.

The striking aspect of the study, said bureau analysts, is not that it proved young marriages are likely to end in divorce, but that it revealed the widespread nature of the phenomenon.

The bureau's study was un-

usual because it covered the entire life time of adults interviewed, while most studies in the field have measured the number of marriages and divorces during a single year.

The recently completed analysis was based on a 1967 survey of 28,000 households selected from every state.

In the Rochester diocese, according to the new regulations, the Bishop must personally approve marriages of couples where the man is under 21 or

the woman is under 18.

The Bishop's approval follows a mandatory review of documentation on the proposed marriage by the diocesan Marriage Tribunal, and intensive counseling and marriage instruction by both the priest and the Family Life Office.

Bishop Hogan said, in announcing the new regulations, that it was his intention to prevent "immature" minors from entering into the "hell on earth" of an unhappy marriage.



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