

On Your Wedding Day Thoughts From a Friend

By Wm. R. McHoughlin

Today, on this very special occasion, you are undertaking a difficult journey because the pitfalls are many and the temptations great. I say these things to you because you are young, yet old enough to realize that times ahead will not always be pleasant. There will be times that will tax your faith, yes, even times that you will question your love.

This is a sacred moment for you both. One brought about by strong mutual feelings of love and respect. There is no question of this love, otherwise, this marriage would not be taking place.

God wants you both to realize the perils of young marriages today so that you may strengthen and fortify yourselves against them. Let us look at some of these dangers and meet them head-on.

Money, or perhaps the lack of it has caused young marriages to fail. Unless you are endowed with a lot of it, then there will be times that important sacrifices must be made.

It is sad but true that some young couples do not possess a realistic attitude on their impending marriage, perhaps having lofty ideas as to what makes it a success. This eventually leads to unpleasant disagreements. It is important that the marriage bonds be made stronger and one of the many ways to accomplish this is to say a simple "I love you" to each other. It is true that you can't live on love alone but be assured that no marriage will survive without it. When you find your faith and love in doubt, your mind troubled — the cure is quite simple — grasp each other's hands and say: "Father, thank you for saving this special person for me". Let there be no misconceptions concerning the part God plays in the success of any marriage. Was it not He who instituted this sacred rite?

This is a solemn occasion but there will be times when you shall share laughter and happiness with each other. Happiness like that experienced when the sun, coming over the horizon, signals the beginning of a new day; or the happiness one feels while strolling through the forest, seeing how pure everything seems

to be after a gentle rain.

This will be a new life style for each of you and it will call for patience and understanding of each other's habits and idiosyncrasies. Sometimes the success of a marriage is based on how well each of the partners adjusts to them and makes allowances. There will be times that will call for a great deal of self-control and patience on days that seem to start wrong and there will be displays of emotion to which your partner in marriage has never been exposed. A simple "I love you" may not be a panacea but it is nice to hear when things are not what they should be.

There was a man, upon his enlistment into the Army, who was asked what he would like to do. Without hesitation, he answered: "Be a paratrooper". The strange thing about it was that height terrified him. Every phase of training which involved height was an ordeal. When the time arrived to actually jump from the airplane he prayed, "Father, give me the courage that I may not falter." He jumped and continued to do so for some time.

This is, perhaps, a strange situation from which to draw an analogy but has not marriage often been compared to a "big step" or a "big jump?" You will come to realize that the Sacrament of Marriage is far more complicated than a parachute jump and will require more courage, in the long run.

And so this is where "Father, give me the courage that I may not falter" comes in. You will be tried and you will be tested but you shall succeed.

I never cease to be amazed at the number of people who fail to realize that God is there anytime He is needed, all one has to do is ask. Granted it may appear that He is a little slow in His response but one thing is certain, He never fails to answer.

It is very important to remember — never let material things become so outstanding as to cause you to lose sight of the most important elements in your relationship — Faith, Love, and Understanding.

Choose Unique Wedding Gifts

A wedding is a special occasion — a time to give a gift that sends your best wishes to the newly married couple as they embark on their journey through life, together.

A unique present, something that will not be duplicated over and over again, will be appreciated by the newlyweds and show them that time and effort was taken to choose something extra special for them.

Some original gift ideas — if possible, find out the color and decorating preferences of the couple and select a wall hanging, or painting, that compliments their taste.

Give a planter or hanging basket in an interesting macrame weave, made from

various types of ropes and cords. Fill the basket with a plant or a bouquet of flowers.

Champagne buckets, wine decanters, dessert dishes, vases and cheese boards are more traditional gifts yet items that are not commonly part of a newly put-together household — they are luxuries for the two-some just starting out.

Hobbyists will appreciate any addition to their favorite pastime, such as the latest in camping gear, sailing equipment or a weekend of skiing.

And, for those who possess a creative talent, there is nothing like a gift made with the giver's own hands and ingenuity.

The Meaning Of Encounter

The Marriage Encounter is designed to give married couples a chance to examine their lives together — and to do so in Christ-like, face-to-face, heart-to-heart encounter with the one person who means more than any other. For information on program schedule call 663-1727.

Brides Favored Red, Yellow

White, as the color of the wedding gown, was not popular until the Victorian era. Favorite colors in Colonial days included yellow, blue and lilac. During the American revolution, American brides favored red, the color of defiance.

Stay Calm

Don't hurry the morning of your wedding, nervous as you're sure to be, force yourself to take a deep breath and relax. You'll be a prettier, more radiant bride for it.

Tips For Cleaning

Once you've walked down the aisle, you step into a whole new world of caring for a home. What to do — and how — can be bewildering.

Basic tips — Set up a schedule for household tasks.

Straighten up every day, but only once. Decide whether morning or evening is the most convenient time for you.

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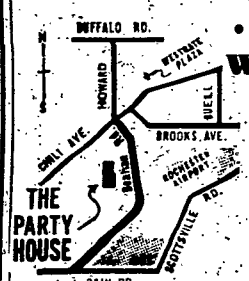
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