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Marriage &
Family
Life
after
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Get Me to the Church on Time...

cathy®

by Cathy Guisewite



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Modern couples play waiting game

Marriage is a great institution, but I'm not ready for an institution, says Mike West in said to be the most common reason for delaying marriage.

Study reveals growing trend

BY LAURIE HANSON
Catholic News Service

historical 95 percent marriage rate for Americans.

The younger the woman when she marries, the greater likelihood she will divorce, the report also found.

Mothers who have a child before their first marriage are more likely to divorce than mothers whose children were conceived after marriage, it

U.S. young adults are staying single longer and more are opting to marry at all, the report found. Diocese officials who prepare couples for marriage say these trends are apparent among the Catholic young people they see.

The Census Bureau report, released in December, found that between 1975 and 1990, the percent of married women 20 to 24 years old dropped from 68 percent to 38 percent.

The report also said that 90 percent of current young adults in the United States were expected to marry during their lifetimes, compared to the

said.

Notre Dame Sister Barbara Markey, director of family life in the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb., said that prior to 1984 her archdiocese had a "significant teen-marriage program," while now with the average age of marrying men, 27, and women, 26, it is rare for a teen-ager to request marriage preparation.

She called that a positive change. "If you get married at 19 or under, the breakup rate is four out of five. At 25, it's one out of five. You don't

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Expert cites lack of 'independence, identity'

Society plays key role in decision to delay marriage

BY MIKE LATONA
Staff writer

The growing trend to delay marriage is a result of several factors, according to a marriage counselor in the Rochester area.

"There's an increasing immaturity of people. The life tasks of adolescence are not being accomplished at as young an age," observed Dr. Dennis Boike, whose office is located at 120 Linden Oaks, Rochester.

Consequently, he said, maturing signs such as "independence and identity" are being delayed.

Boike also cited a relaxing of moral standards, which tends to discourage the notion of a permanent commitment.

"People don't arrive at a sense of love at a particularly young age," he remarked. "They'll say, 'I don't mind having sex, and living together; but this com-

mitment baloney (such as marriage) has got to stop."

Finally, Boike pointed to an America which is increasingly bent on individualism.

"People used to get married before they became independent, because they would have the support of their neighborhood and friends," he said.

One product of this earlier era is Barb Carroll, coordinator of sacramental life for the Rochester diocese. She recalls a "much different concept of marriage than what young adults in the 1990s now hold."

"When I was in high school (in the late 1950s), kids in my class quit school to get married," Carroll noted.

Carroll acknowledged that an increased acceptance of females

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