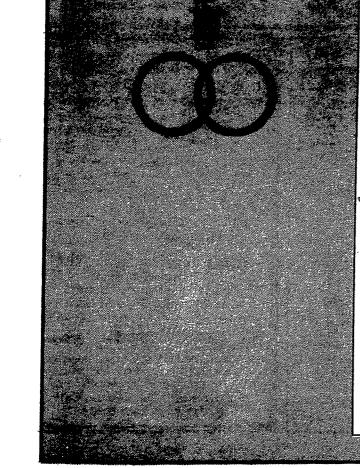


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Expert cites lack of 'independence, identity'

Society plays key role in decision to delay marriage

> **BY MIKE LATONA** Staff writer

he 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 commitment 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," Ĉarroll noted.

Carroll acknowledged that an increased acceptance of females Continued on page 18