

Love and Marriage

In the course of this series on love and marriage, we have dealt with quite a number of points. Necessarily, many of these have been considered generally, leaving to you the task of making the application in your own case.

Some types of situations we have not attempted to deal with directly because they are specialized situations requiring specialized help adapted to individual circumstances. There might be, for example, the problem of the marriage disturbed by drink. Help in such a case can best be found in a visit to your pastor who may suggest joining Alcoholics Anonymous. (For the non-drinking wife of an A.A. husband, there is a parallel organization.) Rather than attempt to deal with this problem on this page, we deem it more practicable to suggest that you look up Alcoholics Anonymous in your own local phone directory, and put in a call.

There are other specialized situations that can be handled better by specialized agencies in your own area. If you are a couple who can't manage money, then find out if there is a family agency in your area, which will help you in this respect.

Perhaps that edginess or moodiness results from nothing more than lack of sufficient sleep, or from an inadequate diet. Regular medical check-ups even when you are in the best of health and spirits, are a good investment; at other times, they are a still better investment.

For specialized problems, see if there is some local agency that can help.

In the face of the problems that challenge our mutual love and our marriage, we must keep a correct perspective. From time to time, we should re-read the words addressed to us on our wedding day. Here is part of them:

"This union... will bind you together for life in a relationship so close and so intimate that it will profoundly influence your whole future. That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its successes and its failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. You know that these elements are mingled in every life, and are to be expected in your own. And so not knowing what is before you, you take each other for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death..."

"May this love with which you join your hands and hearts today never fail, but grow deeper and stronger as the years go on. And if true love and the unselfish spirit of perfect sacrifice guide your every action, you can expect the greatest measure of earthly happiness that may be allotted to man in this vale of tears. The rest is in the hands of God. Nor will God be wanting to your needs..."

Published by The Catholic Centre of the University of Ottawa, Canada,
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LE DROIT, Ottawa

Vol. 12, No. 5

Our Parish Bulletin

Feast of the Presentation

February 2-8, 1964

Ordinarily, today's Mass would be the one for Sexagesima Sunday but because today is February 2, we celebrate the festival of the Presentation instead.

Forty days after Christmas (that is, forty days after the birth of Jesus, the Son of God who had become Man also), Joseph and Mary brought Him to the temple to present Him to God.

Because Jesus is God, He was thereby exempt from the necessity of this ritual. Nevertheless, because He had chosen to become like us in every respect except sin, He permitted His foster father and His mother to bring Him to the temple for this ceremony, as an act of obedience to the law.

Jesus' whole life was to be a life of love and obedience "for our sakes, for our salvation". As Simeon foretold in the temple, it would bring Him to Calvary, to crucifixion. But it would not stop at that; it would sweep on to Easter, to His resurrection from among the dead, to His triumphant re-entry into Heaven.

The feast of the presentation in the temple is more than a historical commemoration. It has profound significance for you and me, today. For example, our own baptism is somewhat analogous: on that day, our parents brought us, their most precious possession, to God's temple in order to present and dedicate us to God.



(PHOTO ROBERT CÔTÉ)

Henceforth, we became committed to a life of love and obedience—not just in some vague, abstract way, but as our actual way of being ourselves and conducting ourselves amid the very real, very pertinent conditions, obstacles, and, sometimes, ridicule, of daily living among real people and real circumstances.

At Mass today, we, together with all our fellow-baptized-parishioners, represent ourselves in God's holy temple. We re-offer ourselves, individually and collectively, re-dedicating ourselves to God and to God's program for living.

But, because of Baptism, because of Holy Communion, we are personally temples of God. St. Paul asks, "Did you not know that you are temples of the Holy Spirit... and you are not your own?" Let today, therefore, be our reminder that our every thought, word and action should be the very best offering we can present to God, dwelling in the temple of our soul.

Immaculate Conception Parish

Chapel Point Rexton South Branch

Rev Herbert Grattan, Pastor.

Purification of B.V.M. February 2/64

Catechism classes are cancelled for today.

Devotions this evening at 7 o'clock.

Tomorrow is the feast of St Blase. We will have the blessing of throats after mass in the morning; at 3.30 in the afternoon, and in the evening at 7 o'clock.

There will be a Card Party in the parish Hall on Tuesday of this week at 8 o'clock. (Whist and Auction) Please note change of day, from Wednesday to Tuesday.

Friday of this week is the First Friday of the month of February. We will hear Confessions as usual. On Friday after-noon at 3.30 for the children and again in the evening at 7.p.m. The mass on Friday evening will be at 8.30

This Friday also we will take Holy Communion to the sick, at the usual time and in the usual order.

Blessed Candles will be available after the masses today. The purpose of Blessed Candles is fixed in the liturgical prayer that "the lighted candle may dispel darkness, that our hearts, lighted by the grace of God, may be freed from the blindness of vice and that our mind's eye may see what is pleasing to God and profitable for our soul.

High Masses for the Week.

Today at 10.30 Special Intention - Parishioner

Mon. Hugh Dysart - Canadian Legion Branch 30

Tues. Telesphore Arseneault - McInerneys

Wed. Philip O'Brien & deceased members - Mr & Mrs Albeni O'Brien

Thurs. Mrs Louise Hebert - Amedee Hebert

Fri. Hubert LeBlanc - Mr & Mrs Doug Seely

Sat. Ronald Murphy - Stella & Bernard McNiff.

Server this week: Peter Kavanagh.

This week, Our Sunday Visitor continues the series on the promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This is Catholic Press Month. And you can read about the need, nature and the accomplishments and the value of the Catholic press in today's Our Sunday Visitor and in the Register. Make it a point now, to take one of these papers home with you every week and read it. How many times has an interested person asked you questions about your Catholic faith that you were unable to answer? Surely it was not because there was no answer, but because you were not well enough versed with the teaching of the Church. Regular reading of a catholic paper will correct this want and at the same time give you a better appreciation of the faith that is yours.

God Bless You.