

A LOOK AT MARRIAGE

When young people consider getting married, many want a religious ceremony in a church. They feel it is something special and spiritual. It demands prayer spoken before God and Gospel, as well a before friends and relatives.

They seem to be saying that they consider marriage a holy thing or as St. Paul put it, “ a great mystery.” Indeed, in our faith, marriage is in the same company as Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Eucharist, Priesthood, Unction - it is a holy act that gives God’s grace.

Marriage is found on the first page of the Holy Bible. There is says that after God created man in His own image, He declared: “ It is not good for man to be alone.” Then God created woman, and brought them together in the first marriage and the first family. What marriage does is create a new being, a unity of love, something greater, something better than they were separately. They are now one, for God said,” And the two shall be one flesh . . .”

Church Fathers have spoken of marriage and the home as a “little church.” They meant that the Christian home has believers in it and that it is a pace where there is prayer and the family is filled with love.

In the Second century, Tertullian wrote this about marriage: “how beautiful, then, she marriage of two Christians , two who are one in hope, one in desire, one in the way of life they follow, one in the religion they practice. They are are servants of the same Master. Nothing divides them, either flesh or in spirit. They pray, worship and fast together; instructing one another, encouraging one another, strengthening one another. Side by side they visit God’s church and partake of God’s banquet: side by side they face difficulties and share their consolations.” How touching is this description!