Don't Marry Her Unless She Has...

1. Common Sense. Your wife will learn a lot in marriage, and so will you. Indeed marriage is intended to be a school. But you can't teach the wife everything. You must expect your bride to have something on which to build - common sense. If she possesses that golden quality, you two will go places. If she lack that fundamental requirement she will make a fool out of you:

Financially: Your bride must have a modicum of resourcefulness. The boss will fire you if your wife calls you to the phone morning and afternoon to ask you how to start the oven for heating the baked beans and what to do when the hot water won't run out of the faucet. You can't run home for an hour to tend the fire, or to take a burnt pie out of the stove. An improvident wife may spend all your food allowance the first day she visits the A. & P. Give the potential bride a trial. Give her some cash and tell her to pick up some odds and ends for you. See how far the money goes.

Socially: She may embarrass you to death when you take her out in public. If you judge her manners by the way she acts in the parlor evenings with you and with her family, you may be in for a big surprise. Take her into the company of friends of your own state of life. You will soon discover whether she is unfriendly, slow to mix, loud, uncouth, silly. When you are married you want the company of old friends. A dumb wife can ostracise you socially. A well-mannered wife is also no slight asset to success in business.

The Novena for a Happy Marriage...

...started today. It will end March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph. Once you are married it is too late to correct mistakes. Daily Mass, Communion, visit to the Grotto, and the recitation of the Litany of St. Joseph for nine days will take the gamble out of this venture.

Perseverance...You Need It.

In Marriage: There is no vacation in being a good husband and father. The virtues of kindness, fidelity, patience must be practiced every day. In the wedding ceremony you will take the hand of your bride and tell her: "I take thee,...for my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health until death do us part."

In reaching Heaven: Lent is half over. Have you kept your Lenten resolutions? You won't get to Heaven unless you persevere in bettering yourself: "He that perseveres to the end, he shall be saved." Lent is a special training period for the development of perseverance. The person who gives up his resolutions in Lent is going to give up fighting persistent temptation when it assails him, because he never formed the habit of staying at a task. Life is made up of fresh starts. Begin again to attend daily Mass and to receive Christ in Holy Communion. Heaven suffers violence and a quitter never gets there.

Persevere in this Novena and you will be getting into shape for persevering in marriage and in reaching Heaven.

Confirmation.

Bishop Noll will be here next week to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. Every Catholic has an obligation to receive this Sacrament. If you have not been confirmed, go to Cavanaugh Hall Chapel tonight at 7:15 for instructions.

PRAYERS: (Ill) Brother Marcian, O.S.C.; mother of John Prince (Mission House). 8 S.I.