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On Pre-Marital Chastity: Why Wait Till Marriage?

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unexpected leave from his Benedictine confrères; perhaps, however, it is due to the limited scope of this work which presents Benedictine monasticism up to the twelfth century, that there seems to be no hint of connection between a heritage, that is a living tradition and an ever-new mission. But then, we have still a modest query: Where are the Benedictine nuns, the Hildegards, Roswithas and their glorious company, or those, for example, who, we know, were exported from England? In a second edition, one would like to discover them in even so inconspicuous a place because they deserve it.

Four documents pertaining to monasticism complete this very valuable volume, and lists of additional readings at the end of many chapters afford ample opportunity for further study.

SISTER MARIA BRUNO, O.S.B.

ON PRE-MARITAL CHASTITY

WHY WAIT TILL MARRIAGE? By Evelyn Millis Duval. New York: Association Press, 1965. 118 pp.

Since the modern boy and girl do not easily accept an argument from authority even in serious matters such as pre-marital chastity the priest or parent dealing with them will be most grateful for this book. It professes to give the reasons for premarital chastity, frank and specific for today's youth, and it does all of that in a manner that is as fresh as the morning newspaper but as solid as modern studies in sociology and human nature and a rich life-time experience can make it.

Anyone who deals with modern youth is aware that they are getting the wrong doctrine, loud and clear from all the mass media. This insidious doctrine coupled with their personal temptations makes their struggle for chastity a titanic one for many. When a non-Catholic writes so clearly, so forcefully in favor of chastity, in a style that is crisp and with arguments that are solid and reasonable the priest and student counselor will be most grateful, for his work is going to be much easier when he has at his finger tips the answer to the modern fallacies and lies concerning premarital sex: "Our sex morals are old-fashioned"; "What harm can experimenting do?"; "But we're really in love!"; "Everyone does it"; "But it's perfectly 'safe' today", etc.

Fr. Filas in reviewing this book (*America*: April 17, 1965: 571) expressed the hope that it would be accepted in Catholic circles on a par with Fr. Gerald Kelly's *Modern Youth and Chastity*. The two works together would give our boys and girls the answers and information that they need, the principles to guide them and the conviction

that they are still doing the modern thing in guarding their chastity. Whoever puts these two works within the reach of today's youngsters will be doing them an incalculable service of true love.

G. W. HEALY, S.J.

A SOURCE BOOK FOR ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

WORLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. D. W. Fryer. New York, N. Y.: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1965. xi, 627 pp.

This is a well organized and prodigiously informative book whose subject matter is the distribution of economic activities throughout the world. You learn from it that 95 percent of the world's people live on 40 percent of the world's surface. The rest is too wet or too dry or too cold. (Incidentally, 40 percent of the land area of the Philippines is arable, not merely habitable.) 90 percent of mankind live at elevations below 1200 feet. There are now more than one hundred cities with populations of one million or more. The poorest of the continents is Africa. Swine and fowl, unlike other farm animals, are found everywhere. During the past half-century the substitution of farm machinery for horses has released an area of cropland in the United States equivalent to the entire expanse of Philippine terrain. Well bred hens now lay an average of 200 eggs a year.

The book contains up-to-date information on almost every economic activity which results in the production of a raw, intermediate or finished good. This is its preoccupation, though there are three compressed chapters on the service industries. It is a handy source of data for the student of economic geography.

Professor Fryer writes in his preface that he "feels strongly that it is not enough merely to learn the facts concerning the distribution of various types of economic activities or even to appreciate the basic causation of such patterns." Yet, believe me: he has stuck to the facts. Though he claims to have penetrated more deeply than is customary "into the marginal territory between economics and geography," this volume does not substantiate the claim. Economic geography, in the hands of such a one as Ellsworth Huntington, has been far more than descriptive. It has asked why and has essayed an answer. Why, for instance, do six percent of the world's people produce forty percent of the world's output? Why is Africa the poorest of the continents? Professor Fryer sets down the fact and leaves it at that.

MICHAEL MCPHELIN