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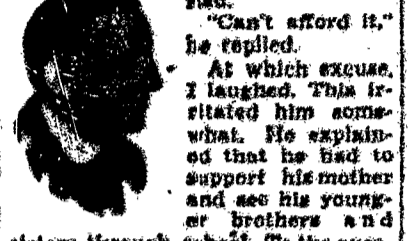
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Barbarous Babies
 By Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter M. H. Wynhoeven
 Editor-in-Chief, Catholic Action of the South

ENVY AND JEALOUSY

Many years ago, on the train to New York, I met a certain man. Having much idle time on hand, we chatted quite a bit; and, as it will happen on long trips, the conversation became rather intimate. He was a handsome and successful person, about 70 years old. I asked him why he did not get married.



"Can't afford it," he replied. At which excuse, I laughed. This irritated him somewhat. He explained that he had to support his mother and see his younger brothers and sisters through school. To the question whether his father was dead, he replied, "No, Dad is still alive, but he quit the family cold after the last child was born."

And here was his startling explanation: The father became jealous of his own children, and walked out. He could stand it no longer when Mother lavished all her attention and affection on the little ones. He did not relish being taken for granted and more or less ignored.

This is a definite possibility that mothers may well think of sometimes. Jealousy is an awful affliction, and the jealous are indeed unfortunate. Most of us are born with the tendency. As with all other traits that rise from our fallen nature, we may not hope to eradicate it entirely from the child's heart. Still, efforts should be made to temper them down to the least possible degree. By all means, never fertilize and cultivate this undesirable and obnoxious wild growth.

Little children invariably will want what others have. Do not give in to them. If little George almost choked, boiling down his piece of pie in the hope of getting Mother's portion before Sister finishes hers, tell the young man that he cannot have it, explaining to him that he had his share, and Patricia and his mother will eat theirs when they get ready. To make the point still stronger, inform him that the cook in the hot kitchen, who loves lemon pie, did not get any, and that, therefore, she will get Mother's piece. If Mother does not care to eat hers, that will wake him up, maybe faintly, to the fact that other people should be considered.

If the child next door has a toy which he now wants principally because the other child has it, again make it clear that he cannot have everything he sees, and that, after all, he has plenty of nice toys which the other child does not have; so he should be satisfied and content. Don't weep when he starts cuddling up to you with his cute pleas. Make it a rule to which you will adhere, and he will gradually learn the lesson not to be unreasonably desirous of other people's goods.

Another mistake often made with little children is, when they pass candies or cookies which they have just received, to take some with profuse thanks and then hand the portion back to them openly, or sneak it back to them. This is wrong, for it will form the habit of feigned kindness, and when it happens that the gift is retained, the child will be disappointed and angry. His sense of wanting everything for himself, and his uncontrolled desire to have that which others have, will be increased. This possessive quirk is firmly fixed in his thoughts by the well-meant but foolish act of giving his offerings back to him.

A birthday celebration usually furnishes a good occasion to make the point about expecting and getting things at the proper time. On ordinary days, show the envious or jealous little one that he is not getting any gifts, simply because it is not his feast, and there is no occasion for gifts, but, some day, when he celebrates his birthday, he alone will receive all the nice things, because nobody else has a reason for getting gifts then.

Children should be made to understand that everybody has his inning. No two boys can be at bat simultaneously, under ordinary circumstances, in a well-regulated baseball game. If Patricia has an invitation to go riding with Cousin Cynthia and her parents, little George should not insist that he go along too, just because his sister goes. The fact that he is not invited or wanted may prove a terrible disappointment to him, for the moment. But, be determined, stick to your point that he can't go because there is no reason why he should go. And, by all means, do not spoil him by promising something to pacify him. That is entirely wrong, and the harm will be worse. You may distract him and get him interested in something else and, when he responds favorably and forgets about his grief, make him happy by other means, but never offer it to him as a substitute or let it have any connection with his sister's trip.

Then, when it happens, as it may, at some future date, that he is favored, and his sister has to stay home or be deprived of something, call his attention to the same uneven situation. "But your sister doesn't cry; she understands, and she is perfectly satisfied." Devices of this sort will help much to make your children understand, slowly surely, that it is senseless to be jealous. It goes without saying never encourage jealousy in your family by being more to some rather than all to all.

Little Duties
 It is in the little duties that most of us fail. We all have within us the possibility of heroism. Called on to do something great, we all may do it. But we neglect the small, helpful things.

Those who make good use of their time have some of it to spare.

'Quiz' Corner

In Confirmation, considered a great benefit and is one obliged to receive this Sacrament as soon as possible after receiving First Holy Communion?

It certainly is a great benefit as it means the reception of the Holy Ghost to make us strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ. While it is not necessary for salvation, one would be guilty of grievous sin, did they have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament and neglect it. There is no specific time as in some countries little children are confirmed. It is customary in this country to have Confirmation on first Communion day or shortly after. Owing to the large dioceses over which our bishops rule and their many obligations and duties it is not possible to have Confirmation even once a year in some parishes. The larger city parishes generally have the Sacrament of Confirmation administered in their churches some time during the year.

Does the Immaculate Conception mean that Our Blessed Lady, like her Divine Son, was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and hence was not born of earthly parents?

No. The Blessed Virgin was born of human flesh and human blood, just as every other mortal. Her parents were St. Joachim and St. Anne. The Immaculate Conception simply means, as has been stated through this column on several occasions, that the Mother of Christ, by a special privilege, was preserved free from original sin from the first moment of conception.

Many Visit Slain Mexican Priest Tomb

MEXICO CITY — The tomb of the Rev. Dario Acosta at Vera Cruz is constantly visited by Mexican Catholics. Father Acosta was killed within the parish church of the Assumption, at Vera Cruz, eleven years ago.

OUR HIERARCHY

This is one of a series presenting members of the American Hierarchy.



No. 173. Bishop W. A. Griffin

Most Rev. William Aloysius Griffin, Bishop of Trenton. Born, Nov. 20, 1885, at Newark, N. J. Ordained Aug. 15, 1910. On faculty of Seton Hall College, South Orange, N. J., 1910-25. Pastoral work in Diocese and Archdiocese of Newark, 1925-33. Named a Papal Chamberlain, 1929. National Treasurer, Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 1935. Elected Titular Bishop of Sarnus, Feb. 26, 1938, and named Auxiliary of Newark. Consecrated, May 1, 1938, at Newark. Appointed Bishop of Trenton, May 21, 1940. Installed July 23, 1940. Ludwig photo. (N.C.W.C.)



Recently I heard some one say that Martin Luther repented before his death. Is this true?

This statement has been made frequently but so far as one may judge by externals the unfortunate man did not repent. He died very suddenly though his was not an unexpected death as his health had been rapidly failing, due largely to his debauched life. While God may grant to one who has sinned as Luther did the grace of repentance, it is rare that one who has so abused divine grace would have the courage or strength to make a confession.

Please give a definition of the word "cleric."

A cleric is one who has been assigned to the divine ministry by the reception of the clerical tonsure and thus rendered capable of obtaining the power of orders and jurisdiction, benefices and pensions.

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