

Selfishness Can Cause Disruption of Family

By the Rev. Dr. Egard Schmaldeker, O.S.B.

A large number of factors account for the disorganized and disintegrated condition of American homes today. The most basic and far-reaching cause of all is individualism. A variety of elements enter into this concept; but no distinguishing feature is selfishness. No matter what the term used—whether it be self-realization, self-expression, self-gratification, self-interest when over the individualistic spirit is found, selfishness is the key-note. The individualist is concerned first and foremost and often first and last—with himself.

His neighbors know about him, even the members of his family, are quite secondary. He does not think of seriously nourishing himself for them. Now, rather than the common good of the group, gets chief attention and emphasis. Individualism is arrayed against altruism, self-love against other-love.

Such a spirit can only prove harmful to family life. It is divisive, separative rather than binding or integrating. In the case of the individualist mother, for example, her own career rather than the good of her husband or her children, or the race, may come first. Her conduct reflects the flippancy of the day. "I live my own life."

In the case of the individualist father, his own convenience or ease and pleasure, rather than the common welfare of his family or the good of the race or the nation is the law. Such attitudes can only result in harm to the family.

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Catholic U. Plans Summer Theology Courses for Women

Washington — (MC) — To meet the needs of many women leaders of religion, special courses in theology will be offered at the summer session of the Catholic University of America this year. Dr. Roy J. Deferrari, director of the summer session, announced.

The courses will be taught by the Very Rev. Joseph C. Feenon, dean of the School of Sacred Theology, and the Rev. Eugene M. Burke, C.S.P., instructor in dogmatic theology. The courses will begin on June 20 and terminate on August 11.

Q.—WHAT IS THE MEANING of the Agnus Dei?

A. It is a sacramental of the Church and consists of wax, blessed by the Pope. In virtue of the blessing and prayer of the Church it is intended as a means of exciting devotion toward our Lord, who in the Agnus Dei, that is to say, the Lamb of God.

and, for that matter, to all society. A satisfying and successful home life, a properly functioning family, calls for cooperation. It calls for team-work, for a spirit of altruism, for the sacrifice of self for the other members of the group. But an individualistic spirit does not understand such language. It is essentially divisive and disruptive. It tends invariably to disorganize the group in which it makes its power felt. It does not integrate.

Divorce, for instance, is nothing else but the climax of an individualistic marriage.

An Unchristian Attitude

It need hardly be added that a selfish or individualistic attitude is a decidedly unchristian attitude. The fundamental Christian law is the law of love—not love of self, but other love—love of God, and neighbor. Hence according to the Christian law, the sponsors and parents in the family circle stand ready, out of love of God to sacrifice their own interests for the common good of the whole family group.

They are not steeped in the notion of self-realization or in selfish practices. Nonetheless, their family life brings them very real compensation. In fact, in their very sacrifice of self for those near and dear to them they experience a truly genuine self-realization. They experience a deep joy and satisfaction that is quite foreign to the self-loving individualist whose happiness never extends beyond the ambition of "living his own life."

Discussion Clubs Tells Catholic Groups 'Do Something About It'

By The Reverend George Vogt, Director, Diocese, Confederation of Christian Doctrine

From all quarters of the diocese come letters with statements like this: "We Catholics have taken enough. Let's fight back!" or "Let's defend the Christian family in a positive way," or again "We talk too much and do too little." All feel that the pagan attack on the home and family has increased to where we must move to neutralize it. And the word is "move" and not talk.

Many have mentioned the clever literature of the Planned Parenthood Birth Control advocates; their system of actively following up their pamphlets by personal calls especially in the hospitals; their attempted indoctrination of all civic or public health clinics; their establishment of treasuries that run in the thousands of dollars to carry on their deviltry.

And we? We denounce these evils in round terms in pulpit, book and pamphlet but we have no active groups to promote our own philosophy. Of course, that's Catholic Action. That's the part the Popes have given to the lay men and women. So I would urge these members of the Study Clubs in the different towns to get together and discuss their problems; form a group of interested people and with a priest as moderator, go ahead and "do something."

QUEST. 1.—Why must every marriage be in public before two witnesses?

ANS. 1.—This is because marriage has social meaning and implications and so must be performed in a social manner, in before witnesses.

QUEST. 2.—How are husband and wife sanctified through and in the Sacrament of marriage?

ANS. 2.—A Christian man and woman are united in Christ and by Christ are given the graces necessary for their union in life. Their cooperation earns for them their blessing. Penance and Holy Eucharist also contribute their share of graces to sanctify the married couple.

QUEST. 3.—Who is primarily responsible for the spiritual and moral education of the children?

ANS. 3.—The parents are primarily responsible for the spiritual and moral training of their children. Only secondarily does this obligation fall upon the priests and Sisters. The parents are the natural or God-given teachers of their own children; if they fail in their duty no one else can adequately supply the lack.

QUEST. 4.—Why do parents refuse their obligation to teach their children religion and delegate it to the priests or public agencies?

ANS. 4.—Many priests and Sisters complain that children coming to school carried over any their progress or ideas themselves. That is neglect on the part of the parents. The children can write general and vague to the latest type of comic but often they do not know the names of their Saviors. The favorite doctrine of these parents is to say: "Let the priests teach my children religion." They forget that what they do not do for their children cannot be done by anyone else. In disciplining and training children there is no "back-seat driver."

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Lieut. Col. Florence Kerma Murray, one of only 14 Lieutenant Colonels in the Women's Army Corps, is a parishioner of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Newport, R. I. A teacher and an attorney in civilian life, she is at present WAC Staff Director of the Third Service Command, supervising all WAC activities in Army installations of the Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia area. (NCWC)

Trixie Tells of Becoming Frigiana

St. Louis, Mo. — How Trixie Frigiana, famous stage star of the early decades, happened to change her name from Dolis O'Callahan, is told in a letter to the Rev. Daniel A. Lord, R.J., editor of The Queen's Work, Sedality magazine published here. Father Lord mentioned Miss Frigiana in one of his recent booklets, "Let's Pick a Name for Baby," and a copy fell into Miss Frigiana's hands. She then wrote:

"Dear Father Lord: I wanted you to know where I got my name. My father was G. O'Callahan. My mother was Margaret Frigiana. So my name was Dolis O'Callahan. When I went on the stage, I thought Frigiana would look better to rights; and as I had always been called Trixette, because I was so full of pep, I spelled the name Trixie and became Trixie Frigiana. I had my stage career in 1909 and went on until 1928. I had brought myself an income; and since then I have been playing camps and hospitals only, without any payment for my work.

"Between camp shows I live here with the Donahueans in Pasadena, and the sweetest of my life is very beautiful." Respectfully, (Signed) Trixie Frigiana."

Volume Boosts 'Family Week'

Washington — (MC) — A new volume, "The Family Week Forward," has just been published by the National Catholic Welfare Conference. It is a companion book to "The Family Week: A Catholic Approach," issued by the Bureau last year. Both contain material to assist in preparing programs for National Family Week.

Home's Father Also Boy Offers Mass

St. Louis, Mo. — The Rev. John A. Wynn, pastor of St. Ann's Church, St. Louis, Mo., offered a special Mass for the home and family on the following day after the celebration of the National Family Week in St. Louis.

Back 30-Day Partridge For Discharged G.I.s

New York — (MC) — The National War Veterans Administration has announced that it will issue a 30-day partridge for discharged G.I.s.

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A. Give a pint of blood on his birthday!

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