

U. S. Bishops—'The Child; Citizen Of Two Worlds'

(Continued from Page 36) makes when he is left to himself to find out about sex. We protest in the strongest possible terms against the introduction of sex instruction into the schools. To be of benefit such instruction must be far broader than the imparting of information, and must be given individually. Sex is more than a biological function. It is bound up with the sacredness and uniqueness of the human personality. It can be fully and properly appreciated only within a religious and moral context. If treated otherwise, the child will see it apart from the controlling purpose of his life, which is service to God.

Many salutary influences are at work in modern society which must not be allowed free play upon the personality of the growing child. Parents should carefully regulate the company and the hours which their child keeps. They should not treat him as an adult. He needs to be warned against, even forbidden, certain associations. Particularly during adolescence, this is extremely important. A vigilant watch should be kept over the type of entertainment in which he indulges, the motion pictures he attends, the books he reads, the radio and television programs to which he is exposed in the home.

III. Sense of Responsibility. A common complaint registered against the home and the school today is that they do not sharpen the child's sense of responsibility. He is made conscious of his rights, to be sure; but he also has obligations which are correlative of those rights. His education and training are defective in the proportion that those obligations are not impressed on his young mind.

No point is urged with greater insistence by religion that the accountability of each individual before God. It is the duty of parents to see to it that their child develops a deep sense of personal responsibility; learning at the earliest possible period that he is accountable to God for his thoughts, his words and his actions. His home training must reinforce this teaching in every practical way. He should be held to strict account for the performance of chores and tasks which are given to him by his parents. He must be made to see that each member of the family has a part to play in the service of God by carrying out an assigned role, just as later in life he will see that each citizen serves God in serving his community and country.

PART OF THE boredom affecting our society today is due to the unsound separation which has developed between work and spiritual growth. The concept of work as a means of furthering sanctification has largely been lost. It remains for parents to recover that concept and apply it to the child's daily experience. From the consciousness that even the smallest household task when faithfully carried out draws him closer to God, the child will derive a continuing motivation for relating all that he does to God. And thus every task, no matter how trivial or menial, can take on a significance which will yield rich spiritual returns.

In this way the child will have learned at home a great lesson which will make it easier for him to adjust to the demands of school life. As he takes his place in that larger community, he will do so as a responsible individual. He will see his homework, his participation in class and his participation in school activities as part of the same divine plan learned in the home, whereby each action has its significance in God's eyes. This mindfulness throughout his daily life of the supernatural value of his actions will be a safeguard



CARDINAL DOUGHERTY



CARDINAL MOONEY



CARDINAL SPELLMAN



CARDINAL STRITCH

Four United States Cardinals Headed Signers of Hierarchy's Statement On Catholic Training Of Children

against the careless performance of any duty. The greater his talent, the more he will be conscious of his obligation to serve God by a rightful exercise of that talent.

IF THE CHILD is constantly aware that his time and his talents belong to God he will want to use them properly and will avoid those harmful associations and pastimes which frequently lead to juvenile delinquency. This implies however that adequate recreational facilities and opportunities for the development of his interest in hobbies, games and other activities are available so that his abounding energy can find wholesome channels for expression.

The spiritual helps which the child has for deepening his sense of responsibility must not be neglected. Parents should encourage the practice of nightly examination of conscience and weekly confession. The child who goes over his thoughts, speech and actions at the end of each day, seeking out what has been displeasing to God, will gradually develop a sensitivity to God's claims upon his life. The practice of weekly confession will make him conscious of the manner in which he has misused his time and talents. It will heighten in him that sense of accountability to God which is necessary if he is to show proper contrition for his failings and proper amendment of them.

IV. Sense of Mission.

In learning the valuable lesson that he is accountable to God for the use of his time and talents the child will acquire not only a sense of responsibility, but a sense of mission as well. For his religious training will remind him that his future happiness lies not in the indulgence of selfish desires, of his whole personality to God's service. "I am come to do the will of him who sent me." This must be the keynote of the child's mission in this world. For him the Will of God must come to be more important than any personal consideration. Only when he masters this truth will he be given to see how all things, even disappointments and setbacks, can

be turned to good account in the service of God.

SINCE EVERYONE is not called to serve God in the same way or in the same capacity, great care should be exercised in the child's vocational guidance. Otherwise, aimlessness in his training will leave him without permanent direction for his talents and aptitudes. Parents and teachers must help him to choose and to follow a calling for which he is fitted and in which he can best serve God. A deeper awareness in the child of his mission in life will do much to reduce the shocking waste of time and energy which in so many instances characterizes his formative years today, and later prevents him from taking his full place in civic life.

Among the boys and girls of our land, God has destined some to carry on the work of His Church for the salvation of souls. To these He has given a religious vocation. Here indeed is a challenge to the generosity of American parents. If in all sincerity they have impressed upon their child that he has a mission in life to do God's Will, they, in turn will want to cooperate with that Will and aid in its fulfillment. God's claims are prior to every human consideration. If He calls the child to His special service, parents should not shrink from the sacrifice often entailed by such a call. The pain of severing home ties will be more than offset by the spiritual joy given to those who labor in the Vineyard of the Lord.

In emphasizing the supreme importance of religion in the spiritual development of the child, we are but applying to the circumstances of today the eternal principles which the Church received from her Divine Founder.

For nineteen centuries, the Church has lingered lovingly over Christ's tribute to the child: "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." The implications of that tribute should be recognized by all who have care of the child. There is the great vocation to show him that he is a citizen, not only of this

world, but of that other world which lies beyond with God Whose Kingdom is the Kingdom of children.

Signed by the members of the Administrative Board, National Catholic Welfare Conference, in the names of the Bishops of the United States: Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia; Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit; Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago; Francis Cardinal

Spellman, Archbishop of New York; Francis P. Keough, Archbishop of Baltimore; Robert E. Lucey, Archbishop of San Antonio; Richard J. Cushing, Archbishop of Boston; Joseph E. Ritter, Archbishop of St. Louis; Patrick A. O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington; John M. Gannon, Bishop of Erie; John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne; Emmet M. Walsh, Coadjutor Bishop of Youngstown; Michael J. Eady, Bishop of Columbus.

U. S. Bi

(N.C.W.C. News Serv. Washington, Nov. 11 following is the full text statement issued by the Bishops, Archbishops and Bishops of the United States close of their annual meeting here:

THE CHILD: CITIZEN OF TWO WORLDS

In the present grim national struggle, the American people have resolutely pioneered the cause of freedom. We have committed ourselves to oppose relentlessly the aggressions of those who deny to man his God-given rights and who aim to enslave all mankind under the godless materialism. The responsibilities which we thereby assumed are grave and continuing. They serve conscientious citizens.

It is of primary importance for our people to realize that human freedom derives from the spiritual nature of man and can flourish only when things of the spirit are in reverence. Our present policies of action need to be re-evaluated in the light of that truth. But we must go even further. Small comfort to be sure today if tomorrow the child is unworthy of the respect in us. We need, therefore, to examine carefully the spiritual direction we are giving to our children to prepare them to fulfill their moral responsibilities to and to their fellow man.

IN RECENT decades, rapid advances have been made in meeting the child's physical, emotional and social needs. His moral and religious needs have not been met with the same solicitude and understanding. As a result, many of our children today betray confusion and insecurity because these unmet needs are fundamental to the harmonious development of their whole lives.

The child must be whole and entire. He must be seen as a citizen of two worlds. He belongs to this world, but his first and highest allegiance is to the kingdom of God. From his earliest years he must be taught that chief significance comes from the fact that he is created by God and is destined for life with God eternally.

The child's prospects for filling this great hope which God has reposed in him must be viewed realistically. He comes to maturity in a world where social, moral, intellectual and spiritual values everywhere are disintegrating. Such a society, he will argue, needs the integrating force of religion as taught by Christ. Such a force will give him complete and rational meaning for his existence.

FIRST OF ALL, it will be in him a consciousness of God and of eternity. His vision be opened out upon a supernatural world revealed by faith which differs from the world of nature his senses reveal. Thus he will discover a higher life than this daily one and a brighter world than that which he sees. Secondly, it will give him a continuing purpose in life for it will teach him that he was made to know, love and serve God in this world as a condition for meriting eternal happiness.

Thirdly, it will induce in him a deep sense of responsibility for those rights and obligations he possesses by reason of his citizenship in heaven as well as on earth. Finally, religion will challenge him to take whatever walk of life he chooses and to seek and act according to the Will of God in whatever way it may be manifested. Thus, as a principle of integration, religion will help the child to develop a sense of direction, a sense of purpose, a sense of responsibility.

God Bless
St. Andrew's Seminary
Niagara University
(Vincentian Fathers)

College of Arts and Sciences
College of Business Administration
College of Nursing
Pre-Professional Courses
Pre-Engineering Courses
School of Education
Graduate School
Seminary
Reserve Officers Training Corps
Veterans Counseling Services

Address
THE REGISTRAR
Niagara University, N. Y.

REV. ARTHUR F. FLOREAC, Pastor

SAINT MICHAEL'S
830 Clinton Ave. Roch.

<p>Archibald's Service Station Gas - Oil - Lubrication Battery Service - Tires - Tubes OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY Empire 6734 832 Clinton Ave., Cor. Church</p>	<p>MATTERN'S HAT SHOP 877 CLINTON AVE. N. Open 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. Phone - LOcust 8840 An Outstanding New Collection</p>
<p>ZELLER'S Home Made Sausage DELICATESSEN 840 CLINTON AVE. N. BAker 3510 Opposite St. Michael's Church</p>	<p>Ehmann Brothers QUALITY MEATS and GROCERIES Our reputation since 1888 is your assurance of satisfaction. 1041 CLINTON AVE. N. 1185 EYELL AVE.</p>