

Making Marriage Click

Catholic Parents Urged 'Set Christian Pattern'

By MSGR. IRVING A. DEBLANC (Director, Family Life Bureau, N. C. W. C.)

The world is changing all around us. Change is actually constantly re-selling Christianity. The principles are easy, the application is difficult.

Our Catholic minds are equal to any, but we do not seem to be creating the culture in which we live. We are grabbing at culture, not cultivating it. We are in a forty-year religion; we are entirely too defensive. Being defensive Catholics is our great fault.

Someone is setting new patterns. Few of these patterns are Christian. But are not our Christian minds equal to any others? Catholics must take the offensive for good. We have much to give our fellow men, but we must not give the impression that we bore from within.

OUR CATHOLIC colleges are developing a new aristocracy—not so much an aristocracy of wealth, but of talent, of leadership. This is a new position and opportunity for Catholics in the United States. We are no longer "immigrants." We are accepted. We belong. We can influence any circle for good. Ideas have consequences! But we must properly publicize our ideas. Americans do not "buy" what is not publicized.

One way to instruct our own Catholic people is a Diocesan Family Day with the Bishop participating. It is vital that we work as close as possible under his mandate. Workshops are presented for the parents of preschool children, of large families, or of handicapped children, or of adolescents, and so on. Political policies affecting family life are discussed and decided upon.

This meeting should show public refusal to "accept" divorce or legal birth-control practice. This meeting should publicize refusal to "accept" or "buy" the terms of "going steady."

for high-schoolers. This gathering should publicly refuse to follow "the Joneses." Rather it will follow Christ.

It will not agree that large families are indecent, but rather proclaim that each child is worth more than this whole rich country. It could publicly recognize that approximately 50 per cent of married couples have no children under 18 and are possibly setting the standards for all families, and so on.

OTHER ACTIVITIES suggested are: a Catholic celebration of National Family Week in May, National Family Sunday on the Feast of the Holy Family, the selection of the Mother-of-the-Year (or Couple-of-the-Year). Also, the sponsoring of a priest, a nun, a layman, or major seminarian to participate in the credited six weeks in summer Family Life Institute, offered annually at Catholic University and co-sponsored by the Family Life Bureau of the N.C.W.C.

AN ANNUAL diocesan-wide Family Hour is likewise proposed, in which children pray for their parents and parents pray for their children. Silver or golden anniversary couples also are featured at this Family Hour and are sent questionnaires so that the local press may feature good Christian human-interest stories.

Positive helpful family laws are studied by workshops on a diocesan scale, and laws may be proposed during an election year. An anti-divorce-something-positive-such as a Catholic physicians' guild extending free information if clients are sent by confessors—may be offered for the hundreds of birth-control clinics sponsored by the Planned Parenthood. Three couples may form panels on family life and appear on radio, or TV, or in high school and college classrooms, or before any organization. A zealous "vocation couple" may be appointed in every parish.

German Faith Stands Test Says Cardinal

Fulda, Germany — (NC) — Two-thirds of the German Catholic population make their Easter duty and attend Sunday Mass more or less regularly.

This statement was made in the annual report by Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, to the German Hierarchy at its meeting here.

THE CARDINAL'S report noted a slight loss in Church membership since 1950, which Cardinal Frings said is principally due to Soviet Zone Catholics, who have been forced out of the Church by communist persecution. The loss may be considered insignificant because it is so small, he added.

The number of seminarians is about 3,800, with religious vocations increasing, the Cardinal reported.

The prelate deplored the growing number of mixed marriages especially since about half the Catholic partners forego Church weddings.

HE PRAISED the accomplishments of German Catholic Charities, however, which now manage more than 4,000 institutions through the help of 42,000 Religious and 38,000 lay helpers.

Cardinal Frings concluded the report by saying: "Our Catholic people stand fast and their faith stands the test."

Georgetown Given Federal Grant

Washington — (NC) — Georgetown University here has received a \$75,000 Federal grant to assist in construction of medical research facilities. The Public Health Service said here in its announcement of the first seven recipients to benefit from the new program.

The grants will be matched on a 50-50 basis by the institutions. These are the first grants under a new program established by the last Congress which authorized expenditure of 90 million dollars to aid public and private institutions in building research facilities. Georgetown University is conducted by the Jesuit Fathers.

Automobiles Given To Mexican Nuns

Fort Worth, Mich. — (NC) — Two new automobiles have been presented here to visiting Mexican nuns who spent part of the summer teaching and catechizing among Spanish-speaking residents of the Detroit archdiocese.

The cars were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Darr of St. Clair, Mich. They were given to assist the Sisters in getting to teaching assignments here and in Mexico. The nuns left recently for Mexico.



Detroit — (NC) — An outdoor Rosary is the scene of devotion to the Blessed Mother here at the Munding Center for the Aged. At center is featured a 20-foot crucifix; the "Hail Marys" are retired bowling balls mounted on 30-inch posts. The Rosary is flanked by blue and rose colored patio stones and is said to be the largest in the State of Michigan.

High Tax Burdens Decried By Pontiff

Vatican City — (NC) — All citizens have a duty to pay taxes, Pope Pius XII reminded delegates to the congress of the International Association for Financial and Fiscal Law here.

At the same time, the Holy Father said, governments must not burden citizens with unnecessary taxes.

"It is without doubt the duty of every citizen to support a part of the public expenditure," the Pope declared.

ON THE OTHER hand, the Holy Father continued, "the state, since it is supposed to protect and promote the common good of its citizens, must not assess them with other than necessary taxes. Taxes must, therefore, never become an easy way for public authorities to make up for a deficit created by improvident administration."

"Modern states," the Pope explained, "have a tendency to increase their intervention in the lives of citizens and to provide an increasing number of services." But, he warned, taxes that are too heavy, "depress private initiative, hindering the development of industry and commerce."

HE ALSO warned against taxes that "favor . . . one type of industry or one particular branch of commerce more than another which is equally useful."

The Pope pointed out that just principles, which are the basis of any tax system, are often overlooked. It is essential, he continued, that the moral principles governing taxation be understood by governments as well as the people.

New Seaway Perils Historic Church Site

Montreal — (NC) — Foundations of a Catholic church, rectory and 11 Indian dwellings have been unearthed in an area that soon may be flooded because of construction on the St. Lawrence seaway.

Archeologists are working against time to sift through the remains of what they believe to be an Incoqui village of about 1636. It is near Caughnawaga in the midst of seaway development projects.

There is a slight chance that some of the articles unearthed may hold some secret of the young Indian maiden, Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks, whose cause for sainthood is being processed. She grew up at Ossernenon, a Mohawk village near the present Auriesville, N. Y.

IT IS THIS general atmosphere that since 1939 has sent many hundreds of Spanish youths and adults to seminaries and novitiates. Parents eagerly fostered vocations among their children. A new trend — the so-called "delayed vocations" — developed as many young men, who had brilliant futures in secular life in ready finished their studies as order to become priests.

SOME MIGHT argue that this increase in religious vocations is explainable by normal growth during a period of peace under an authoritarian regime. Such a situation, they might say, means privileges for the Church which would be sure to attract many young men and women, especially poor ones, to the religious life, since it is a life of easy living and material rewards, particularly for priests.

But the truth is that in Spain the clergy is the poorest of the professions in terms of material remuneration. Priests live in very modest circumstances, if not in complete poverty. Moreover, many of those who had "delayed vocations" returned brilliant futures in secular life in order to become priests.

Los Angeles Schools Enrollment in parochial schools of this archdiocese is 127,600, an increase of 9,000 over last year. Msgr. Patrick J. Dignan, school superintendent, announced.

Jesuit University Raises Faculty Pay

Detroit — (NC) — The University of Detroit has given a bonus of \$465 to 225 full-time faculty members and administrative officers as part of its program to raise salary levels.

The bonus—awarded to all of last year's faculty members who are under contract this year, supplements a general 10 per cent increase given to faculty members last March.

Father Celestin J. Steiner, S.J., president, said the recent Ford Foundation grant did not figure in the bonus. Rather, he said, the raise, was possible because of the new "Operational Fund," subscribed to by alumni and friends. Interest from the \$200,000 Ford grant has not yet been drawn, he said.

Father Steiner said the Jesuit priests on the faculty voted unanimously to turn the balance of the bonus over to the lay faculty.

Vocation Rise Spurs Spain Church Life

The author of the following article is a former editor of Ecclesia, Spanish Catholic Action weekly. At present he is director of the Church Office of Information and Statistics, Madrid.

By FATHER JESUS IRIBARREN (Written for N.C.W.C. News Service)

The Spanish Civil War was a bitter, bloody lesson. Because of it, 7,000 priests, Religious and seminarians met their deaths between 1936 and 1939.

It would be superficial to think that their deaths were caused only by the hatred for religion of the communist-led forces. While it is true that the Civil War had some religious implications, it was not exclusively a religious struggle.

BESIDES PRIESTS and Religious, hundreds of thousands, perhaps more than a million, Spaniards fell in the battle of brother against brother. They fell not only because of religious ignorance, but also because of political bigotry, poverty, social injustice and other reasons, including the upper classes' selfishness and unrealistic contempt for the poor and uneducated masses.

When the war ended the Church could not afford to be complacent with the victory over communism. It had to replace the casualties among its clergy. Even more important, it had to plan and act to remove the underlying causes that had led to the slaughter of so many men in a nation presumed to be Catholic.

Spain's Catholics did so plan, and act, spurred by a feeling of guilt for the war and with the conviction that the Catholic principles in which they believed had to be made a living force in their country.

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