Here Is How To Deal With Husband Who Never Takes His Wife Out

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.
Professor of Sociology at St. Louis University

What do you think of a man who never wants to take his wife out? We've been married five years now, and have three wonderful children, and I guess we'd be considered a happy married couple. Ed is a good provider.

I know he works hard, but when he comes home, he just wants to eat and sit around reading the paper or watching television. He says he's tired. So am I, but I feel it will do us both good to get out once in a while. How do I get him out of this domestic rut we've fallen into?

* * *

PEOPLE ARE the queerest monkeys, Mary! Some wives complain that their husbands are never home, and some complain that they're home too much. It's possible that the reason is pretty much the same in both cases.

The problem stems both from thoughtlessness and the different ways that men and women may define the meaning of marriage. Perhaps it will help you meet this problem if we consider its sources.

First, there is thoughtlessness. Married people tend to take each other for granted. Particularly once the children start coming, husbands and wives slip into fairly clearly defined roles more or less automatically.

* * *

SOMEBODY HAS to pay the bills, and father goes at his job with drive and energy. Somebody has to take care of the house, the meals, the laundry, the shopping, and the children, and mother applies her energy to this never finished daily routine.

It is at this point that a couple can fall into a fatal domestic rut that eventually leaves them far apart in a vocation which was designed to bring them ever closer together.

If a couple forgets that marriage is a life companionship which grows by doing things together, he may lose himself in his job, and she may lose herself in her housekeeping or children. Whether you are fully aware of it or not, Mary, you have sensed this possibility.

* * *

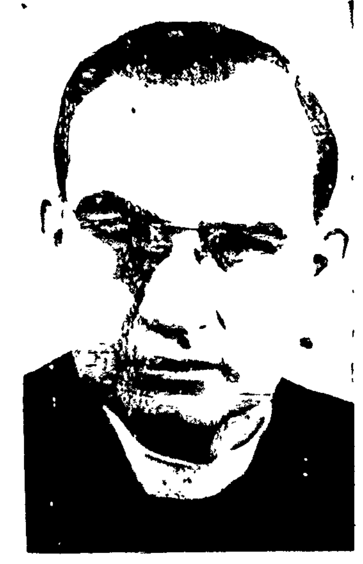
MARRIAGE IS a twosome. It starts that way, and once the turbulent years of child bearing and child rearing are passed, it continues that way. You must grow together all through marriage. This means you must enjoy playing together as well as working together.

Unfortunately, some people don't think of marriage in this way. For them life is divided into a man's world and a woman's world. Once they are married, women are supposed to retire into their world of the home, and men are to be occupied with theirs.

This definition of marriage leaves little room for togetherness and companionship as husband and wife. Briefly, it says: This is a man's world, and women will be happiest if they learn to accept it.

* * *

NOW, MARY, I don't know whether your husband is just thoughtless or whether he holds a different view of marriage than you do. If the latter, there probably isn't much you can do to change him since he may be following the pattern of his father before him and feels that this is the way it should be.



FATHER THOMAS

However, you might point out that even his father more than likely devoted more time to his wife and children since he couldn't escape to the passivity of watching television.

Chances are, your husband is merely thoughtless. Let him see that you really appreciate his hard work in behalf of the family but show him that you both need to get out together as a couple.

* * *

HUSBANDS sometimes forget that men have gained a 40 hour week, but mothers with children must still work seven days out of seven. It may help toward this realization if you let him take care of the children for a good stretch on Saturday or Sunday while you are away.

Most men aren't experts at sympathy — the ability to put themselves in their wife's shoes and to realize her special feelings and problems. A taste of baby-sitting may help.

Keep working on him, Mary. Prudent couples make it a point to go out together at least once a week. They feel this draws them closer together and gives them a better view of their marriage. I might add that it also keeps them from forming the habit of seeking all their entertainment separately.

* * *

MARRIAGE IS for life. The companionship of courtship should blossom into the intimate togetherness of parenthood and old age, not into the mere usefulness of partnership in a business.

* * *

NEXT WEEK — "Steady Dating."

Turkish Paper Urges Link With Vatican

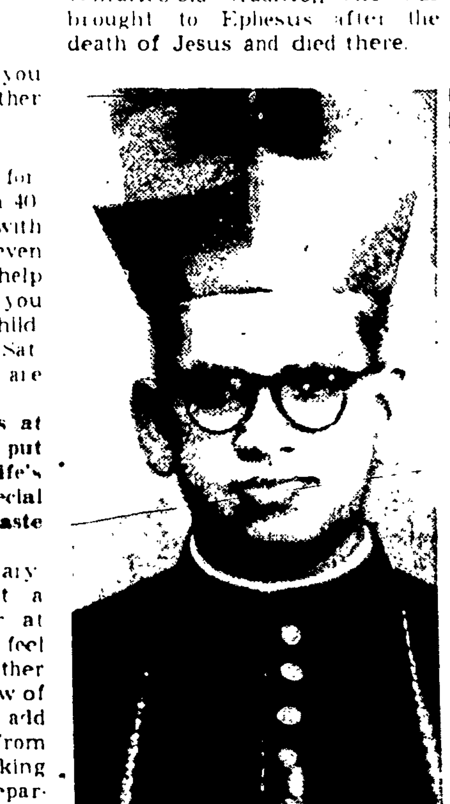
Istanbul — (RNS) — Establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and the Vatican was urged here by Vatan, leading pro-government newspaper.

It said interest in the question has been stirred by the recent visit to Rome of Governor Fahretten Kerim Gokay of Istanbul who was received by Pope Pius during his stay in the Italian capital.

VATAN SAID diplomatic ties would be to Turkey's interest because both this country and the Vatican "are natural allies in the struggle against Communism," and the Holy See represents "a power which should not be overlooked."

Another reason, the paper added, is that the establishment of diplomatic ties would increase the number of pilgrims to the famous shrine of the Blessed Virgin at Ephesus and thus benefit the Turkish tourist industry.

The Marian shrine is that of Panaghia Kapuli (Holy House) which marks the site of a house in which the Virgin is said to have lived during her stay in the Ephesus area. According to centuries-old tradition she was brought to Ephesus after the death of Jesus and died there.



Indian

Archbishop Joseph Parekkattil, 45, has been installed as Archbishop of Ernakulam, the Syro-Malabar Rite diocese of India. The Syro-Malabarese Rite features use of the Syrian language in the Liturgy. (NC Photo)

Ex-GI Builds Africa Church

Brother Francis Sullivan, C.S.Sp., proudly stands before his first major construction in Africa — a church that seats 1,800. Christians of the Wachagga tribe supplied sand and stone needed for the church, which took two years to build, and is situated on the slopes of snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro. Brother Francis, from Staten Island, N. Y., proves an ex-GI can be a great asset to the missions in Tanganyika, East Africa.

Chinese Nationalists Order Official Bowing To Flag

Taipei, Formosa — (RNS) — The executive branch of the Chinese Nationalist government published a decree authorizing penalties against state employees who refuse to bow to the flag or the portrait of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the founder of the Chinese Republic.

THE DECREE upholds findings last year by the committees of law and education of the legislature that such salutes are "not acts of religious worship," but merely gestures of respect to the flag and the memory of Dr. Sun.

Issuance of the government decree climaxed a controversy which arose in 1953 when two American Presbyterian missionaries — Egbert W. Andrew and Richard B. Goffin — objected to the practice as "sacreligious."

They sent letters of protest to newspapers here after a group of students had been expelled from a school for refusing to bow to the flag on the grounds that this violated their religious principles.

THE PROTESTANT missionaries' protest prompted a statement by the Rev. Joseph B. Donohoe, S.J., also an American, who said the Roman Catholic Church was "not of the particular school of thought which held such practices to be idolatrous." He stressed that saluting the flag or the portrait of Dr. Sun was simply a gesture of respect and had no religious significance.

Father Donohoe is a brother of Auxiliary Bishop Hugh A. Donohoe of San Francisco. At that time he was attached to Ricci House at the University of Taiwan in Taipei. He is now stationed at Bangkok, Thailand.

Jungle Procession Marks Ordination

Gaibira, Sambalpur, India — (NC) — A candlelight procession of tribal Catholics through the jungles formed a colorful prelude to the ordaniation of Sambalpur's first Adivasi (aboriginal) priest.

Father Samuel Tirkey received homage from a jubilant crowd of 4,000 Catholics, many of them tribals who trekked to this jungle parish from faraway villages.

At the ordination were a tribal Bishop, Coadjutor Bishop Stanislaus Tigga of Raigarh-Ambikapur. Father Tirkey, a member of the Ouraon tribe, was raised to the priesthood by Bishop Herman Westermann, S.V.D., of Sambalpur.

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Youth Mass On Boston TV

Boston — (NC) — A televised Mass attended by delegates to the Archdiocesan Youth Congress in Boston is pictured, with Msgr. Joseph E. Schleder, Director of the National Council of Catholic Youth, about to begin the Mass. The Mass was offered in the Boston Archdiocese's television chapel.

Red Poland Forms Atheists Clubs

Warsaw — (RNS) — An atheists club has been organized here and plans are under way to establish similar groups in other parts of Poland, the Warsaw Radio reported.

It said that when a nucleus of such clubs has been organized a national congress of Polish atheists will be held to extend the movement.

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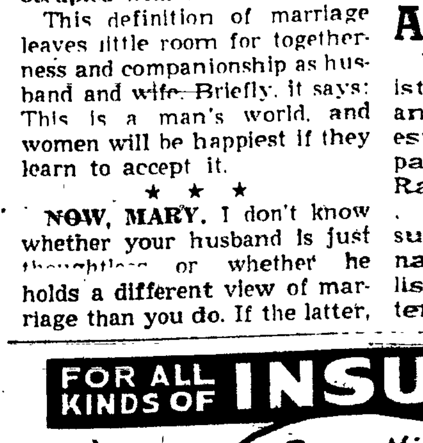

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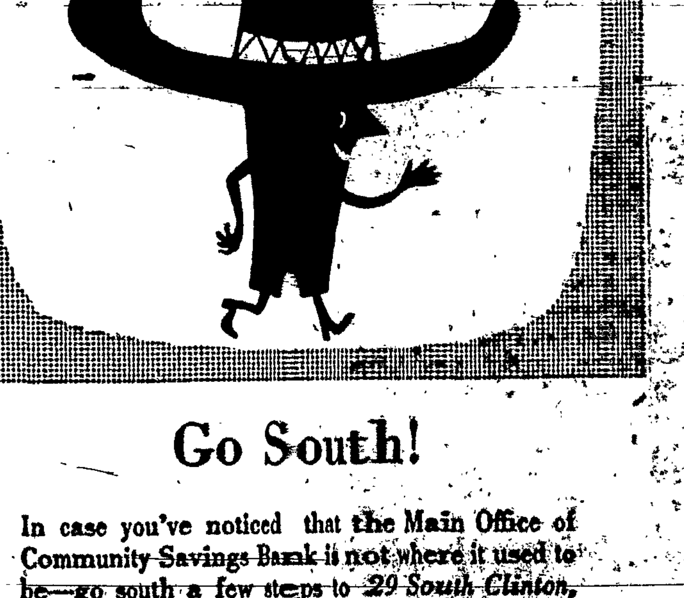

Go South!

In case you've noticed that the Main Office of Community Savings Bank is not where it used to be—go south a few steps to *29 South Clinton,* where you'll find Community's new higher dividends and all the same helpful tellers and officers ... during construction of their new beautiful bank building. Stop in soon and open your savings account.

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BOOK SHELF — Dom Marmion

Sr. Margaret Teresa, Nazareth College

THE SPIRITUAL DOCTRINE OF DOM MARMION, by M. Philipon, O.P. Newman '56. $3.50. Available at Trant's.

If there are two ways about it, about this greater matter of the soul's approach to God, then Dom Marmion, Irish Benedictine, and Thomas Verner Moore, priest, psychiatrist, and now Carthusian, are a good choice as the two most clearly "opposed" teachers of prayer.

They are not, of course, really opposed. If Dom Marmion insists that Christ is all, that we are adopted in Christ, that the ways of mystical experience lie outside his plan of prayer (which is solely Christ), while Dom Moore holds quietly and continuously to the view that we are to desire and to prepare for the prayer of quiet which God will bestow, and in which we attain the super-natural life we are intended to live —, there is no opposition, really.

CHRISTIAN spiritual life is never other than Christocentric. No Christian envisages any other way to God than through Christ. No earnest prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, entered into by a detached and loving soul, ever by-passed Our Lord. He is the One Who thirsts, the One Who draws all souls to pray. On the other hand, Dom Marmion would assuredly be Dom Moore's perfect example of one who lived always in the conscious presence and love of Christ, the daylong fruit of the prayer of quiet — the man of perfect surrender to Christ.

However gay the recreation, however lively the Irish jokes, Dom Marmion plunged at the sound of the bell deep into his accustomed dwelling-place, the will and love and presence of God in his own heart.

Even the humbly devout ordinary folk who never in their demanding routine found their way through the doors of meditation and holy reading, have been Christocentric: the imitation of Christ said it all for them, the Passion was their height.

But this Dominican writer, Pere Philipson, who "became" a Benedictine temporarily to write this book, shows us that Marmion's great work was to make dependence upon Christ, which is the obvious, the usual, way to God, radiant now and new and three-dimensional for all the souls he could reach.

MARMION LIVED [illegible] Christ home to priests, [illegible]

nuns, students, saints and sinners. His thought is embodied in four familiar works: Christ the Life of the Soul, Christ in His Mysteries, Christ the Ideal of the Monk, and a posthumous work, Christ the Ideal of the Priest. His great mentor was Saint Paul, whose Christocentrism he revivified and re-[illegible] (He insisted upon whole reading of Saint Paul, reading him as he spoke and thought, not piecemeal.)

His second mentor was Saint Thomas, and he brought home Saint Thomas's three-dimensional Christ (May God pardon temerity in terms!) — Christ the exemplary cause of our sanctity or Christ-to-be-imitated. Christ our riches and our way to the Father, since He is the meritorious cause, and Christ the efficient cause Who applies these riches to our souls, and without Whom we can do nothing.

There are two great emphases in Abbot Marmion's doctrine that make us debtors to him in our time. The first is surely his making us realize that in Jesus we are children of God, with all the rights and riches and duties of adopted sons, — and making that realization fuller and grander by his vivid sense of Our Lord's continual thought of the Father and turning to the Father.

THE SECOND is surely the constant reminder that it is Christ who sanctifies us, Who does it, Who causes us to imitate Him, causes us to seek Him, causes us to use His merits, applies His merits to us — and making us humbly aware that of ourselves we do nothing, of ourselves we are worthless.

Pere Philipon progresses from Marmion's interesting life (Part I, Possession of a Soul: the formation of an Irish priest, a Benedictine Prior, an Abbot, a director of world wide renown) to a particularized study of his doctrine (II, Our Life in Christ; III, Monastic perfection; [illegible] priestly perfection) [illegible] of Christ.

PETER'S KEYS

Our Lord promised to Peter the keys of the Kingdom of [illegible] symbol of authority over His Church. [illegible]

[illegible] The poor missionary bishop of the [illegible] rite Catholics there pleads with Peter's successor, Pius XII, for help to put up a small chapel for 300 faithful who are living amongst 20,000 Moslems in Kanadira in the south of Lebanon, half-way between Sidon and Damascus. Materials are costly but the people will help with labor. He needs $4,500. Won't you help the Holy Father meet this need in the Holy Land. Every mite is precious to Him.

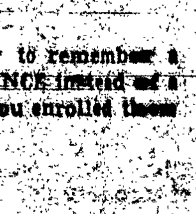
ENROLL TODAY yourself and loved ones ($1 a year or $20 perpetual for individuals; families $5 and $100). The Holy Father grants rich spiritual benefits to all enrolled, living and dead.

MARONITES HONOR ST. MAROUN

On February 9 this group of eastern Catholics in and from the mountainous land of Lebanon, just north of Palestine, honor their patron saint. There are two modern Marouns, poor students in our seminary at Karmsadde, who need help with the $100 yearly needed to train them. One has one more year; the other has six years. Won't you help one by sending him the needed sum in any payments.

DON'T FAIL TO MAKE A WILL. YOU WORKED HARD FOR WHAT YOU HAVE. DON'T LET OTHERS DISPOSE OF IT. DON'T WAIT TILL YOU'RE OLD. DO IT TODAY. REMEMBER GOD WHEN YOU DO.

MASS—THE PERFECT PRAYER



There is no spiritual comfort like Holy Mass said for ourselves or loved ones. It is the greatest charity we can show to our departed ones. Your MASS OFFERINGS are likewise a great charity to our Near East missionaries, who often support themselves and their work[!] almost solely from such gifts. Masses are said within a few weeks.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Are you scratching your head, wondering how to remember a loved one. How about a SPIRITUAL REMEMBRANCE instead of a card or trinket. OUR GIFT CARD will say that you enrolled them or had a Mass said for them.

GRACE AND GRACE

What does any of us need more than God's grace? But poor pagan India needs both God's grace and the two Graces—SISTER ANNIE GRACE, who just began two years training with the Poor Clares in Karuvannur, and SISTER MARY GRACE with the Visitation Sisters in Kottayam. And we need God's grace and your help to keep these girls, for their parents cannot help us with the $150 needed each year of training. Adopt one and her loving thanks will forever bless you. Send it in any convenient payments.

YOU ARE HER REFUGE

Our heart goes out to SISTER CELINA, superior of the Nazareth Sisters in Padrapuram in India. They conduct a House of Refuge for women and children, sheltering 130 inmates, 30 of whom are tots. All come in destitute and must be supplied with everything. [illegible] has also a free dispensary for the poor. [illegible] get by on less than $800 a month. [illegible] come averages about [illegible]. One would [illegible] frantic plea for aid. Quite the contrary [illegible] calm letter breathes her noble confidence in the Providence of God. Won't you [illegible] that confidence by sending a [illegible]

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