



Are You Too Young To Marry? It Depends On Your Maturity

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

When is a girl old enough to marry? Bill and I are very much in love. We've been going steady for the past few years and want to get married when I finish high school. I'll be 18 then and Bill will be 22. He's in his second year of college and can go to work with his Dad any time he's ready. Father doesn't say much, but mother insists I'm too young. Do you think we should wait until I get more schooling?

Well, Jane, there's no simple answer to your question. In spite of what some people say, the best age for marriage cannot be stated in terms of years. It must be figured out in terms of maturity. Perhaps we can help you solve your problem by pointing out a few facts about marriage and maturity. These are points you need to consider in making a sensible decision.

FIRST, WHAT IS marriage? It is a life partnership or companionship formed by a man and woman who love each other. As a couple, they want to share life together. They feel they need each other, are good for one another, and can be happy together throughout life.

But marriage is a very special type of partnership. Love between husband and wife is creative and productive, for they love each other, body and soul, as a man and woman. In other words, marriage means babies.

It means family life. With children to care for, to love, to raise, and to train. In marriage, you dedicate yourself to the service of life with the man you love.

SECOND, WHAT kind of maturity is needed for a happy marriage? There are several types of maturity: physical, psychological, social. Let's see what they imply. Physical or biological maturity means that you have grown up sexually, that you are capable of fulfilling your role of reproduction. Strictly speaking, girls are capable of having babies at a fairly early age—around 14 or 15, but they are sexually mature only around 18 or 19 when they are fully developed and can assume the responsibilities of child-bearing and child-rearing without strain.

Psychological maturity means that you have learned to stand on your own feet and can face problems when they arise. This maturity is not directly related to age, but some experience of life is needed to acquire it.

IT IMPLIES a sense of responsibility, reasonable control over your feelings and emotions, ability to love and cooperate with others, and willingness to face difficulties squarely.

If you are over-dependent on others, if you dodge difficult tasks and responsibilities, if you constantly blame others for your mistakes and failures, if you are not sensitive to the feelings and rights of others, you are psychologically immature.

Social maturity means that you are capable of assuring the obligations of marriage in American society. This implies that you are able to be a real companion to your husband, can run a home, and can take care of children under the social conditions in which your marriage will place you.

THESE SOCIAL conditions are important. When you marry, you accept the economic and social position of your husband. The family unit you form with him must manage on the money he earns, and its social position will depend largely on the type of job he holds.

Hence social maturity implies different qualities for different marriages. For example, if you marry someone in the professions, you must have sufficient education and training to be his companion and to move in his social circle.

If your husband's work will require him to move frequently, you must be prepared to adjust to new situations and to make new friends. If his income will be small, you must

Soviet Calendar Ignores Easter

Berlin, Germany — (NC) — Neither Easter nor Pentecost are mentioned in a 1957 calendar issued by "Neues Deutschland," principal communist newspaper in Germany's Soviet zone.

The first "major event" listed in the calendar is the birthday of Wilhelm Pieck, president of the Soviet zone puppet government. Other days noted are Lenin's birthday, which this year falls on Easter Monday; the "Day of Railroad Men," which falls on Pentecost Sunday, and the "Day of the People's Police" in July.

There is not a single reference in the calendar to either Stalin's birthday or to the day of his death.

BOOK SHELF

THE FOUNTAIN OVERFLOWS, by Rebecca West Viking '57. 435 pp. \$5.00.

In the back of one's mind there is a word "novel" that means an almost forgotten experience — those first great days of reading when stories weren't connected with wars or problems or the times, but just with people; charming, exciting people, good people far away and in another world who lived through a story. This book is that way — you miss these characters even before they go away, you wish they didn't have to.

THE FAMILY IS Papa (Piers Aubrey), Mama (Clara Keith), a musician who married for love, and who loves with the clear judgment, the tormented submission to her medium, of a great artist. Mary and Rose, good little musicians wrapped in the lively mysteries of childhood and sensitive to the necessity of taking care of ones parents, baby brother Richard, and heart-rending, and Cordelia, the charming family tragedy, interned amid genius and determined to play the violin.

Kate in the kitchen who notices double rainbows and Cousin Rosamund with her golden calm are family too.

Papa is compact of intellect, journalistic drives, courage and generosity unlimited, and the chronic weakness of his kind, which visits him disastrously in the form of gambling. Much joy and nearly all sorrow hinge on Papa.

Mama, who teaches the wisdom of cleaving to the music of human beings rather than to their noise, is on the last page still as forthright and glowing as a star.

The Fountain Overflows

Sr. Margaret Teresa, Nazareth College

CHILDREN OF such parents live on a rare plane, a mezzanine with an entrancing view—but the (very pretty) duckling has the story too. And what these charming characters even before they go away, you wish they didn't have to.

When a novel's laughter and tears rise from their true source in character, and the story tells itself just by the quiet onrush of the days, refusing explanation and cleanly, justidiously bearing witness to character—this is the high art of fiction.

Rebecca West's novel is in the line of greats; its Aubrey family must in time be as well known as its brilliant author, who has already had two decades of fame. How many even of the great have the luck, the vision, to create a family whose breakfast-dinner-and-supper language is at once true to character and fit to convey the fountaining wit and culture and perceptiveness of the author?

MISS WEST has been called "indisputably the world's Number 1 Woman Writer." For THE MEANING OF TREASON (eliminating many earlier serious books) she won that acclaim; for this new novel perhaps she will win it in a second field.

Chinese General, Wife Become Catholics

Taipei, Formosa — (NC) — General Sun Lein-chung, former governor of Hopel province, and commander-in-chief of the 5th and 11th war areas during World War II, and his wife, Sun Lo Yi-feng, were baptized January 28, by Archbishop Joseph Kuo of Taipei.

THE COUPLE had been instructed in the Catholic faith by Father Mark Tsai, Ph.D., formerly Regent of Seton Hall Institute of Far Eastern Studies, and now pastor of Mu Sha parish here.

General Sun's baptism marks the conversion of one of the highest ranking officers and most respected officials in the history of the Catholic Church in China in modern times.

His wife's conversion is also significant as she is the great granddaughter of Chinese Emperor Tso-kuang, and the granddaughter of Prince Tuan who was the supreme commander of the Imperial Armies and led the Boxers during the 1900 incident, in which Christians were gravely persecuted.

GOVERNOR of Hopel province from 1945 to 1947, Gen.

Sun has since been Executive Commissioner for Hoping, commander-in-chief of the National Defense Army, and member of staff to the Presidential advisor, at present presidential advisor to the War Strategy Commission.

General and Mrs. Sun, who took the baptismal names of Peter and Elizabeth, are residents of Mu Sha, a suburb of Taipei.

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