

Girl Asks: 'Is It All Right For A Boy To Marry While He Is Still In School?'

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

Do you think it's all right to marry your husband if he has finished school? I'm 20 and Ed is 24. We've been going together for several years and are really very much in love. But Ed needs two more years of college before he finishes his professional preparation. Our parents want us to wait. We'd like to marry now. Is it foolish for us to marry while Ed is still in school? *

It would be nice if there were a clear-cut answer to your question. Unfortunately, several distinct factors are involved and you will have to weigh them separately if you wish to make a prudent decision.

Many young couples are facing this same problem because our dating and courtship practices make it possible for one to fall in love before they are ready to assume the responsibilities of marriage.

At the same time as our civilization becomes more complex, more years of formal education are required before young men are prepared to support a family.

Let us review some of the pertinent factors. First, what is marriage? Marriage is a loving companionship and life partnership in the family enterprise of bearing and rearing children. It implies that you are willing and reasonably prepared to fulfill this function.

Marital love is normally creative and productive, seeking its mature expression in a child. Without a serious potential of couples may be sterile, the vast majority of American husbands and wives are fertile. Hence, marriage means parenthood.

Second, a young husband trying to finish his education is scarcely in a good position to start a family. Modern education is expensive in itself, and few students are capable of holding an outside job while applying themselves seriously to their studies.

Unless they obtain financial aid from their parents or some other source, they will find it difficult at school and support a family.

Many parents are willing to send their children through school, most are reluctant to support their children's families in addition.

Some young couples may enter marriage with the intention that the wife will work until the husband has finished his education. This solution has several highly questionable aspects. Either the couple are not sure of the possibility that the wife will not become pregnant, or they are planning to use rhythm in order to avoid a pregnancy.

The first alternative is quite unrealistic judging from available statistics. The second must be viewed with considerable caution. Not only is it extremely difficult for young couples to practice rhythm correctly, but the tensions and frustration associated with the practice render early marital adjustment hazardous.

Finally, when the wife sacrifices herself to send her husband through school, marital



relationships may assume a parent-child character, with the result that the husband may tend to look for another partner once he leaves school to take his place in the world.

Third, but you insist you are very much in love. Although the intensity of your love may not in itself be a guarantee of marital happiness in marriage, given the freedom tolerated in modern courtship, it does make the preservation of chastity very difficult.

You must face the situation realistically. If past experience leads you to conclude that you will not be able to observe purity, it is best to wait until you can marry and work out a solution on that basis.

On the other hand, there is no good reason why a sincere young couple, even though very much in love, cannot preserve chastity. Happiness and sanctity imply that both inside and outside of marriage learn self-control.

Of course, you must make full use of grace and common sense. Through prayer and the sacraments you will obtain the strength and motivation to love each other as Christians, while common sense will teach you to avoid those displays of affection which may arouse unwanted excitement.

You and Ed have a real problem. In reaching your decision take all the factors into account. Remember, you are choosing a life vocation, not a year or two of companionship.

Chemistry Topic Listed At Nazareth College

"Solid State Chemistry" will be the subject of a talk given by Dr. George W. Luckey to four student affiliate chapters of the American Chemical Society on March 12 at Nazareth College.

St. John Fisher College, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Rochester and Nazareth College will be represented at this second joint meeting of the year.

Dr. Luckey, a chemist at the Research Laboratories of Eastman Kodak Company, received

his B.A. from Oberlin College in 1947 and his Ph.D. from the University of Rochester in 1950.

He was a member of the executive committee of the Rochester section of the American Chemical Society in 1956 and is the secretary of the Rochester section for 1957. His professional interests are photographic theory and photochemistry.

Nazareth College received its charter as a Student Affiliate Chapter in May, 1956.

Catholics Picket 'Baby Doll' Showing

Elizabeth, N. J. (RNS)—Catholics picketed a theater here showing the controversial motion picture "Baby Doll" which is condemned by the National Legion of Decency.

Orderly lines of from 15 to 50 pickets marched up and down outside the Ritz Theater during all performances of the film.

In response to strong protests by such groups as the Knights of Columbus, Holy Name Society

and Catholic Daughters of America, Deputy Police Chief Ralph C. Grisclow viewed the movie to see whether or not it violated the city ordinance against "obscene, lewd, or indecent" motion pictures. His findings were not immediately announced.

Classed "C" (condemned) by the Legion of Decency, the film has been publicly denounced by a number of Catholic prelates over the country.



NEW CATHOLICS Mr. and Mrs. Marland Francis are shown above with their children immediately following their baptism last Monday. Whole family was baptized following the 7th anniversary Rosary broadcast over Rochester Station WSAJ. The Francis family became interested in the Faith from listening to the Rosary broadcast. (Children shown above are from left) Charles, Marland Jr., Robert, David and Debra, in Mr. Francis' arms.

BOOK SHELF

Sudden Splendor

By G. B. Stern, Sheed 58, 147 pp. \$2.50. 242 pp. \$3.25. Available at all Catholic bookstores.

The life of Mother Mabel Digby, fifth Mother General of the Madames of the Sacred Heart, serves in this author's hands as an ideal portrait of the society itself as we know it—a group of religious who

bring the right and cherished mark of graciousness to woman's work of education in the Church.

There must be the chateleine in God's castle, to impress His little ones with reverence for the order of His house; home-keeping and "Plan-keeping," steadily confronting the whirl of change with a tradition of manners begun in the heart, make the Madames good chateaines.

The author, so close to her scene, a member of the "family" surely, with imagination and idiom as revealing as her facts. The love of horses and of riding makes a homely English poetry throughout the first half part of the story, in which Mabel Digby, far from the Church, grows to young womanhood knowing and liking a few Catholics but holding their religion in horror.

HER CONVERSION is of that especially satisfying kind in which God acts suddenly, overwhelmingly, in answer to unflinching prayer, and with so tender a love that we see again the Face bent over the valiant man-born-blind, and hear again that joyous question, "Dost thou believe in the Son of Man?"

The second part is no less interesting: the impetuous girl is now a soul growing up in God, richly graced, able to see the guardian angels of her charges.

A CONSIDERABLE narrative skill and an unmistakable intimacy with the aims and the very heart of this religious society make SUDDEN SPLENDOR a little treasure among biographies.

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Mercy Nuns Plan Novitiate, College Wing

(Continued from page 1)
state educational officials. Over 50 Sisters are currently enrolled in the regular and Saturday extension courses.

THE SISTER graduates from Catherine McAuley Junior College receive a Degree of Associate in Applied Science in the field of Education. The college is a transferable not a terminal college. Credits earned in the college may be applied towards a Baccalaureate degree.

In the complete plans of the building project the Reading Laboratory now located in Mercy High will have a separate unit. The main laboratory with its three summer branches has been in operation over six years.

At the present time over 200 pupils in all grades from 2 through high school are registered in the daily and Saturday extension courses. Since the opening of the laboratory in 1951, some 5,000 boys and girls have been given instruction in remedial reading.

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, March 8, 1957
GE Schedules Lenten Masses
Bridgeport, Conn. (NC)—For the second consecutive year Mass will be celebrated each Wednesday during Lent at the General Electric plant here for the company's employees. Bishop Lawrence J. Shehan of Bridgeport inaugurated the weekly Masses on Ash Wednesday.

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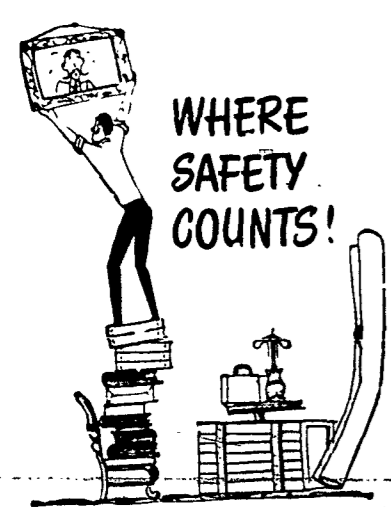
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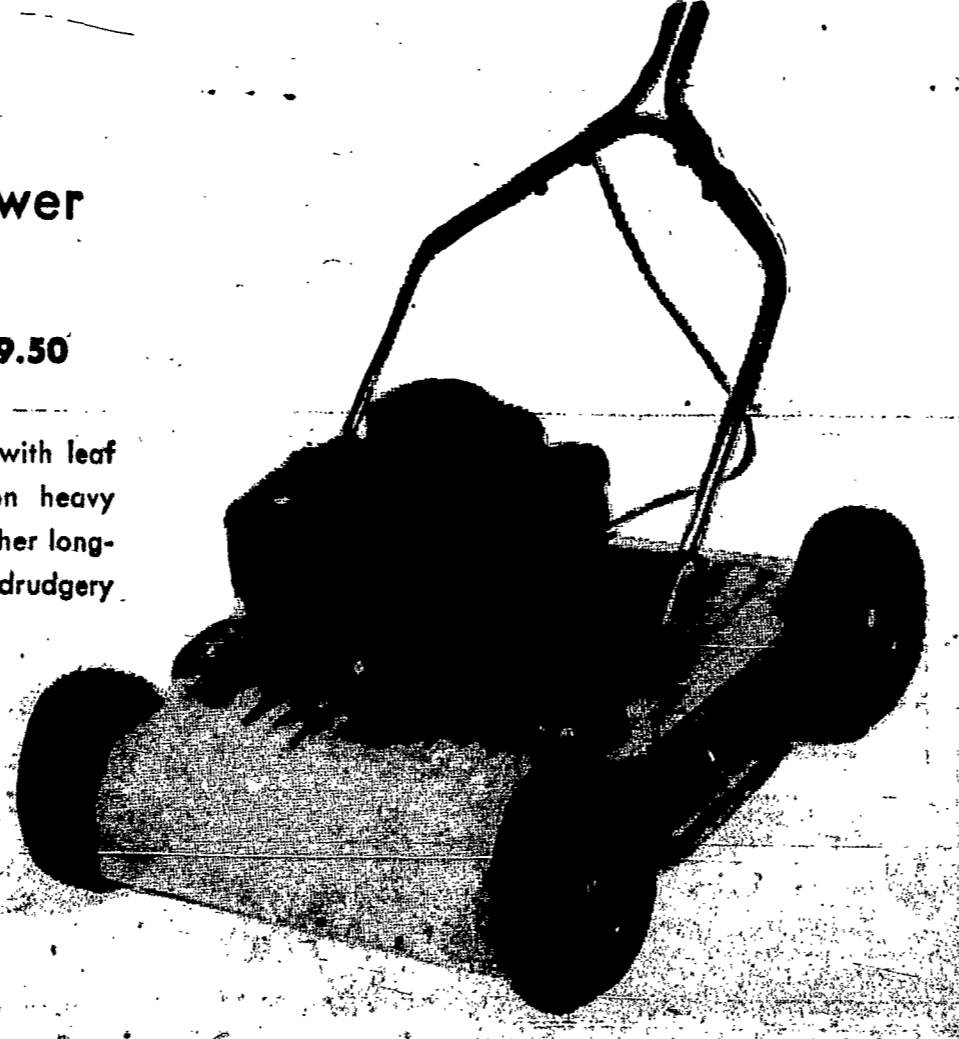
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