

# Why People Fall Away from the Church

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By REV. HOWARD F. MILLER, C.S.S.R.

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# Joseph Breig

## What is Pop Really Like?

One of the things that speakers get up at conventions and say, without fear of contradiction, is that the modern era has lost its right position as head of his household and is now nothing more than a kind of amiable fool who pays the bills and that's that.

If there are any fathers in the convention audience (which usually there aren't, fathers being violently allergic to speeches) they know that what the honored guest is saying is for the most part eyewash. But they smile and let it go; after all, a speaker has got to speak, hasn't he?

Mothers who are present likewise disagree with what is being alleged, but here again the fellow delivering the address goes unchallenged, because by the time a mother has reached convention-going age, she has heard every kind of nonsense there is, and is tired of it, and simply likes nothing better than staying out of arguments.

Dredging back in memory, I recall that this propaganda about the incompetence of Pop has been piling up for years, until today it forms one of those fashionable topics which, when made the subject of a convention talk, is immediately picked up by the newspapers and gets all kinds of publicity—something to which most speakers have only mild objections.

I REMEMBER that one of the first fellows to hit upon the theme of the futility of Father was a professor in Canada, Herbert McLuhan by name, who resented me to righteous rage by writing what I considered a dastardly attack on my best beloved comic strip personality, Dagwood Bumstead, than whom there is no nobler character in all fiction.

The foolish talk about Father has been snowballing ever since, but now I am happy to report that some of the capped and gowned family relations experts are beginning to see through it.

International News Service informs us that the experts, attending the Child Study Association convention in New York, criticized movies, TV, and comic strips for too often picturing Dad as a "bumbling idiot" and "a defenseless male easily destroyed by women."

What chinks me up, though, is the fact that the experts asserted that the portrayal of Pop is false. Dr. Ray L. Birdwhistell, University of Buffalo professor of anthropology, denounced it as a "myth" at the New York meeting. In fact, Dr. Birdwhistell (and I shake his hand) said:

"Father's prestige may have gone down, but his real position in the family is higher than ever. Yet because he takes the more masculine position of being a father-consentee to his children, everybody's scared that he's becoming a slay."

Similar magnificent common sense was talked by Dr. Gunnar Dybwad, director of the Child Study Association. I quote him:

Father used to be pictured as in "control" of the family, but actually he left all the real management to mother and just behaved as a figurehead. Today, a father is a real part of the family, but women have not figured out just what his part should be.

"Some wives expect a father's responsibility to include diapering the baby or washing the dishes. A father's responsibility is to act like a father—to play and read with his children—not mop floors for his wife."

Well, I might take issue with Dr. Dybwad merely on a matter of emphasis. What's wrong with mopping a floor for your wife, if she asks you real nice and it is understood that she is not mopping the floor with you?

For Better, Not Worse  
The father of a certain beautiful girl was known all around the area as the stingiest man in the state. The girl had been going with a young man for some time, and finally the youth asked the father for permission to marry her.

"Hah!" snorted the father. "Do you want to marry my daughter, eh?"



Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, patroness of Italy, is observed by the Church on Tuesday, April 30. The 25th child of an Italian wool-dyer, Catherine began to witness apparitions from her earliest childhood. A member of the Third Order of St. Dominic at 16, she practiced extreme forms of austerity. Popes, Kings and Superiors consulted her for advice. In 1366 she experienced what is known as the "Spiritual Espousals." She was born in 1347 and died in 1380. Her canonization took place in 1461. In this painting, she is shown receiving a crown of thorns from Our Lord in one of His apparitions to the saint. (RNS Photo)

# FATHER SHEERIN

## Russian Threat To Holy Places

No one doubts that there are Reds in the Middle East. The only question is: who are they and how many? President Eisenhower's Middle East plan is designed to thwart the Reds in their attempt to take over the Arab countries.

However, Red aggression in the Middle East presents a problem of special significance to Christians. President Eisenhower alluded to it in his address to Congress in which he presented his Middle East plan. He said: "It would be intolerable if the holy places of the Middle East should be subjected to a rule that glorifies atheistic materialism."

The daily press seemed to pay scant attention to this remark. Yet I fear there is real danger that the Reds will try to grasp control of the shrines sacred to Christians.

"Peril in the Holy Places" is the title of an article in the Tablet (London) of March 23. A correspondent from Jordan tells of the anxiety there as the famous Arab Legion eyes the Israelis across the boundary line. The Arab Legion will suddenly start shelling the crowded streets of Jerusalem. Likewise the Arabs fear the Jews will bomb old Jerusalem and the Arab stronghold on the Mount of Olives.

These are the troubled waters in which the Russians love to fish. In the disorder resulting from such hostilities, they might hook some very valuable prizes.

The Tablet correspondent, however, has some very interesting facts about Russian activity in the Holy Land. Russia is suddenly showing a lively interest in the Holy Land after an absence of almost 40 years. As the smoke from the Arab-Jewish war began to disappear a few years ago, the Patriarch of Moscow claimed the almost ownerless land in Jerusalem known as the Russian Compound. The Patriarch of Moscow is, of course, a bitter enemy of Roman Catholicism.

THE MOSCOW PATRIARCH sent a Mission to Jerusalem after this 1948 war and has been sending reinforcements ever since. Scores of young Russian nuns from all over the Soviet Union have appeared on the scene. This Russian Mission is directed by

These zealous Orthodox priests and nuns may well be genuinely devout. It doesn't really make much difference whether they are actual agents of the Government in disguise, or whether they are simply dupes of the Reds. A naive cleric like a fuzzy liberal can often be more valuable to the Communist cause than a paid agent.

We must keep a vigilant eye on the Reds in the Middle East. You can be sure they won't parade themselves as Communists. Around the Holy Places, they will either wear a disguise as clerics or pull the strings of the Patriarch's puppets.

# Making Marriage Click

## Techniques Suggested For Finding A Husband

By MSGR. IRVING A. DeBLANC  
Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.

Last week this column discussed husband-hunters, but not all single women are engaged in "husbandry" or lassoing. Many are deliberately taking up fencing.

They want to ward off marriage; they may have to take care of a needy member of the family, or maybe they have to hold down a full-time job to enable a brother to stay in the seminary, or maybe it is an important phase of the life.

They speculate. Marriage which requires dollars is a single way of life.

Those, however, who do want to marry must obviously consider the following:

Go where men are. If, for instance, you are a school teacher, a nurse, a librarian, you can get a job in a certain state or small town where Catholic men are more plentiful. Study the national picture carefully. Move into the most favorable territories: "Don't be chicken." Getting the right husband is a science.

You can fall in love with dozens and dozens of men; there is not just one man in the world to complete your jigsaw puzzle—none sleeping, but, again, it must lead to your personality.

Not getting on make-up and dressing up and down Main Street does not mean that some cowboy will dash up and romantically carry you away.

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