

## What Are The Right Answers About Necking And Petting?

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What's the morality of necking and petting on a date? Everybody seems to have a different opinion. Whenever we discuss it, all the fellows insist that they have received conflicting answers from various spiritual directors. How can I know what's right?

AS YOU HAVE probably learned, Bill, some of the confusion concerning the morality of necking and petting stems from the different ways these terms are defined. Spiritual directors agree on the moral principles involved, their answers will differ according to the different meanings which are attributed to the terms necking and petting.

The best way to clarify your problem is to by-pass these ill-defined terms and apply our moral principles to real practices, whatever they may be currently called.

FIRST, LET US be clear concerning the general moral principles involved. In using our sexual faculties, as in all our conscious activities, we follow the order of right reason.

Reason tells us that since sex deals with the co-principles of life, and since only God has dominion over life, we must use sex according to the divine plan.

This plan specifies that sex is to be used and enjoyed only by those who are joined together in the marriage bond. All other deliberate use of sex is contrary to right reason and seriously sinful.

SECOND, ALTHOUGH all normal men and women have sexual faculties which fulfill an important function in the development and maintenance of their entire system, these faculties must be stimulated or aroused if they are to perform their special reproductive function.

The phenomenon of sexual excitation is highly complex, differing considerably in men and women and also among individuals of the same sex. Imagination, affection, intent, and physical contact play important though variable roles in stimulation.

However, there are actions which are designed by their very nature and regardless of the intent of the agent to cause sexual stimulation. These intimate physical contacts are generally summarized under the term petting. Their use outside of marriage always involves a violation of right order and is consequently sinful.

Further, some routine displays of affection such as kissing and embracing may become highly stimulating to one or both parties either because they are prolonged, or because of the manner in which they are performed. In this situation



they become the source of serious temptation and must be avoided.

Some young people do not like to admit that they become sexually aroused under these circumstances, but if they are honest with themselves, they will have to acknowledge that something more than routine affection colors their activity.

THIRD, THE PRACTICE of dating in our society serves two functions. First young people enjoy doing things together as couples. Second through this association they acquire some knowledge of the opposite sex and eventually select a marriage mate in the courtship process.

Neither casual dating "steady" dating nor the final stages of courtship confer any sexual privileges.

## Protestant Writer Favors Public School Bus Rides For Parochial School Pupils

New York (NC) Use of public school buses by parochial school students is favored by John C. Bennett, Protestant theologian.

Protestants generally are divided on this question. Dr. Bennett said in an editorial published in Christianity and Crisis, a bi-weekly journal of Christian opinion. He noted that publicity is centered mainly on the Protestant opposition to the use of the buses by parochial school students.

"THE FACT that school buses are related to the public school system is a source of some confusion," Dr. Bennett wrote. "Why can't this be thought of as being related to the community's provision for its children's transportation

Although courtship, as the immediate stage before marriage, may involve considerable display of mutual affection, at no time may one indulge in actions which are by nature designed to be directly sexually stimulating. Neither may one intend such stimulation or take pleasure in it should it occur.

WELL, BILL, you may feel that I have taken the long way around in answering your question. It is the only practical way.

You must know the moral principles involved, you must have some understanding of how sex is aroused in yourself and in others, and you must be sincere in facing your problem. The mature man regulates his actions according to right reason. Such conduct demands self-control, but then, you really haven't grown up until you have acquired this.

## Pupil School Role Linked To Vocations

Milwaukee (NC) — A high school principal said here he has found a "direct proportion" between vocations to the religious life and students' interest in school activities.

Father John A. Shocklee, co-principal of St. Thomas Aquinas high school, St. Louis, told a meeting of the Vocations Section at the National Catholic Educational Association Convention that his finding is based on a special study of 27 coeducational high schools.

THESE 27 were selected from a survey which embraced 85 high schools in 25 states because of their high percentage of religious vocations. They averaged about 4 per cent of the total enrollment going into religious life as against slightly less than 3 per cent in the other schools, he said.

In these 27 schools, he explained, about 87 per cent of those teenagers who entered religious life had been active in school activities, religious, academic, athletic or social.

Stating that generally it is difficult to see if the signs of a vocation can be detected, Father Shocklee asserted "it is much easier to identify the students who take part in school projects."

"This is the group in which vocations will ordinarily be found. These are the names the vocation director must have," he maintained.

FATHER SHOCKLEE said his survey also revealed agreement among the principals of the coeducational high schools that "the boy-girl proximity" had "little or no effect on religious vocations."

His study indicated that the average percentage for the number of religious vocations in coed schools was the same as that for schools enrolling only boys or only girls, he reported.



'Deepfreeze Chaplain'

Antarctic attire is order of the day for Father (LL) Leon S. Darkowski, of Pittsburgh, Pa., and chaplain for Operation Deepfreeze II on the snowbound continent where more than 100 scientists are preparing for the coming Antarctic winter at McMurdo Sound. The isolated group will have no contact with the outside world until October or November of this year. (NC)

## Pope Receives British Labor Chief

Vatican City — (RNS) — Hugh

Gaitskell, head of the British Labor Party, was received in audience by Pope Pius XII. He was in Rome as the guest of Italian labor leaders.

## Religious Vocations In Large Families

Maryknoll, N.Y. — (NC) — A survey of Maryknoll's June ordination class reveals that more vocations definitely do come from large families.

The summary showed that of this year's class of 82, the average student for the priesthood comes from a family of seven.

In the current ordination class, a large percentage come from a family of ten and eleven, while one young man counts ten brothers and five sisters in his family. Seven seminarians also have brothers or sisters in the religious life.

The survey also showed that mission vocations are not confined to one section of the country, with 17 dioceses in eleven different states represented by the 82 seminarians.

Approximately one-third of the class are armed service veterans and some directly tie the reasons for their vocations to their service life.

## Klan Chief Welcomes Catholics, Prelate Replies

Charlestown, S. C. (NC) — He added that the action was taken in view of the fight against racial integration in schools, communism and federal controls.

Speaking for Bishop John J. Russell of the Charleston diocese which includes all of South Carolina, Msgr. John L. Manning, Chancellor, said the very nature of the Ku Klux Klan would prohibit a Catholic from joining it. He said the Klan avowedly is an anti-Catholic organization.

The announcement that the Klan had opened its membership to Catholics was made in Greenville, S. C. by Bill Hendrix, Klan-imperial officer.

He said the decision was reached at a meeting of the KKK Imperial Council in Greenville.

## U. S. Nuns Open Novitiate In India

Patna, India — (NC) — Five Indian girls entered the novitiate of an American nuns' congregation here.

The girls started out as members of the congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky. An American-born nun, Sister Lawrence, superior of the congregation in this country, led them to their new life.

First local recruits of the order in India, the girls will eventually share with American nuns the task of staffing the order's missions in this country.

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## Pontiff Urges Peaceful Use Of Atomic Energy

Vatican City — (RNS) — Observatore Romano, Vatican City newspaper, published a statement of Pope Pius XII, calling upon men of all faiths everywhere to support peaceful and non-military use of atomic energy.

THE STATEMENT was dated April 14. It was in the form of a note presented to Masatoshi Matsushita, special envoy of Premier Nobusuke Kishi of Japan.

Mr. Matsushita was received in audience by the Pope that day after visiting London where he pleaded that projected British hydrogen bomb tests near Christmas Island in the South Pacific be called off.

Pope Pius expressed anxiety over the increasingly destructive power of atomic arms and warned of the biological dangers caused by radiation resulting from hydrogen bomb tests.

"All men of all nations and all faiths," he said, "must feel a grave moral responsibility to work in support of the noble aim of using nuclear energies in the service of man rather than for mass destruction."

THE PONTIFF declared that scientific, economic and industrial organizations—and even political

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