

Are Too Many Activities Taking Parents Away From Home Too Often?

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How much time should couples devote to outside activities? I'm thinking particularly of some modern family organizations such as Cana, Pre-Cana, the Christian Family Movement, and so on. It seems to me that some of these movements are defeating their own purpose in taking parents away from home where they belong. There are so many extra-familial activities already claiming our time, why add some more?

YOU HAVE A good point there, Katie. Modern life has become so demanding on our time that there is danger that the home will be reduced to little more than a hotel.

Father is away several nights a week, mother has her meetings to attend, and even the older children's time is becoming increasingly absorbed in social, religious, and school affairs.

When is the family ever home together? It is a basic law of social interaction that unless people are together and do things together, they soon lose their feeling of unity and communion. Besides, how can parents instruct, guide, and get to know their children if they are never home together?

This is sound reasoning. Does it prove your point against our contemporary family movements? I think we shall have to analyze the situation further before we can give an adequate answer. These are the points that must be considered.

FIRST, PARENTS have a serious obligation to instruct, guide, and supervise their growing children. In the modern world, this task is both more necessary and more difficult.

It becomes more necessary because a whole series of outside influences such as movies, radio, television, printed material, and so on, affect the child and frequently contradict parental teaching.

It becomes more difficult because the parents must compete for time and interest with these influences and a host of others which take both parent and child away from the home.

Does this mean that parents should spend all the time possible with their children? In itself, this may not prove very effective.

What the child needs is to feel wanted and loved, encouraged in his efforts, corrected when he makes mistakes, instructed and guided in meeting new problems, and supervised in learning to live with others.

This requires understanding



and time on the parents' part, but its effectiveness is not wholly dependent on the amount of time spent with the children. Intelligent guidance, not social retirement characterizes the adequate parent.

SECOND, LET'S LOOK at the family movements you mentioned. They have several pertinent features. First, they involve husband and wife as a couple, thus drawing them together in unity of thought and action.

Second, they involve couples facing similar problems and seeking Christian solutions.

Envoy To Vatican Knighted By Queen

London — (NC) — Marcus Cheke, new British Minister to the Holy See, got a surprise when he went to Buckingham Palace to kiss the Queen's hands, traditional gesture of acceptance.

The Queen took a drawn sword and knighted him as he knelt before her by tapping him on each shoulder.

The first intimation Mrs. Cheke had of her husband's honor came as she waited to be received by the Queen. She was told that she would be announced as Lady Cheke.

Sir Marcus Cheke was invested as a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Discipline Lack Makes Teaching 'Tougher Job'

Cincinnati — (NC) — Teaching is a tougher job than it was 25 years ago, a priest-educator said here in discussing problems and accomplishments of Catholic schools.

Msgr. Carl J. Ryan, superintendent of Cincinnati archdiocesan schools for 25 years, said teaching makes more demands today because "children are not as well disciplined" as they were a quarter century ago.

He blamed this lack of discipline on tension of the world, false ideas that circulate in our society and the notion that "you should never discipline a child."

Msgr. Ryan noted that most of the archdiocesan school system's growth, from 48,000 pupils in 1932 to the present total of 76,000, took place in the past decade.

But he predicted that the major problem to face Catholic schools will be "to provide a Catholic education for all Catholic children on the elementary and secondary level."

"We are educating children of a bumper birth crop," he said, "at a time when additions to religious communities are drawn from those born in the depression era, when the birth rate was low."

Msgr. Ryan said schools will have to cope with the following other problems: (1) the increasing difficulty of providing religious instruction for Catholic children in public schools, (2) providing special education for the handicapped, and (3) providing vocational education.

Elvis Presley Loses Admirer

Cosumel, Yucatan — A well-deserved, though tardy recognition, was bestowed on a young Maryknoll Missioner here by one of his state-side pen-pals.

"The highlight of the month for me," quips Father Thomas P. O'Rourke, Maryknoll Missioner from New York, "was a letter from a young pen-pal in the States who wrote to tell me that she had taken down Elvis Presley's picture and put mine up instead!"



Gift for Poor Churches

Pope Pius XII blesses sacred vessels given by the Italian Confederation of Farmers for the poor churches of Italy. The Pope urged farmers to give special care to the religious training of rural youth, indicating that the future of Italy was at stake. (NC Photos)

Bicycles Built For Seven

Kyoto, Japan — The Tada family here is pedaling its way to heaven.

"The Tadas, mum, pop and their five children live over six miles from Our Lady of the Lake Church here," reports Father John C. Murrett, Maryknoll Missioner from Buffalo, N. Y.

"But distance is no obstacle for them as they pedal off to Mass every Sunday morning."

"First comes mum with the youngest fastened to her back and the next, oldest child in a basket over the handle bars."

"Pop follows with one son sitting on the back and another sitting on the frame bar."

"The oldest son has his own

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Japan Govt. Hails Pope's Peace Role

Vatican City — (NC) — Japan's rise from defeat after World War II has been largely due to the efforts of the Holy See and His Holiness Pope Pius XII, said a note to the Pope from Japan's Minister to the Holy See, Senjin Tsuruoka.

"The Japanese government and people," read the note, "respectfully appreciate the untiring efforts Your Holiness has made for many years for the peace and welfare of the whole world."

Tsuruoka stressed the fact that when he was in charge of Japan's social security system, he had the opportunity of observing the immense benefits given the Japanese people by Catholic enterprises, which had earned the admiration of his people.

The letter continued by saying that Japan will never forget all that the Pope did to secure the release of Japanese prisoners after World War II and added, "Japan looks to the supreme custodian of moral strength" in opposing the continuation of nuclear experiments.

"My government has been particularly happy," Mr. Tsuruoka wrote "in seeing Your Holiness head that humanitarian movement which aims at outlawing the atom and hydrogen bombs, whether it be a question of their manufacture, testing or use."

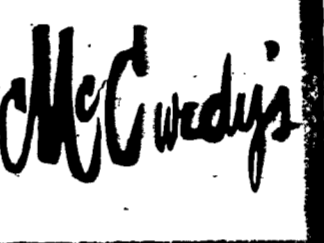
"Your Holiness will readily understand how sincere is the wish of the whole Japanese nation, first victim of the atom bomb and of hydrogen bomb experiments, to prevent the repetition of a similar disaster."

"And you will likewise realize how deep and sincere is the gratitude toward him who charged to use his moral strength to spare humanity a disaster of such magnitude."

U.S. Church Seen Strongest In World

Munich — (NC) — There is no other country in the world where the Church is as firmly established and active as in the United States, said a German priest-professor here.

Father Franz Xavier Arnold, a faculty member at Tuedingen University and a leading German theologian, made the statement in public lectures here. Father Arnold recently returned to Germany after an extensive visit to the U. S. under the auspices of the United States Department of State.



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