

Children Take Parents Control For Granted, They Lack Experience For Own Decisions

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My husband and I just can't seem to agree on how to raise our children. We have three, aged 7, 5 and 3. I was taught that too much restraint and discipline would crush their initiative. I try to reason with them, but must admit that it doesn't always work. My husband says you don't reason with children before they reach the age of reason, you tell them. Who's right?



WHEN PARENTS hold sharply opposed views concerning how to raise children, what is important to be one of the chief blessings of marriage is destroyed. The history of some marriages could be written "Till children did them part."

Perhaps the problem is peculiarly modern, because the past two or three generations of parents have been subjected to such a variety of theories about how to raise their children.

Theory has run the gamut from putting children on a strict, practically adult regime to smothering them with love and permissiveness. Parents are warned that too much authority is harmful, that they should use a "democratic" approach.

This leaves them confused since neither authority or democracy are clearly defined in terms of everyday family living.

IT MAY HELP you reach an agreement with your husband about child rearing if you consider the following points.

First, children are children, not adults in miniature. They are short on experience and long on energy. Consequently, you can reason with them only up to a point.

At one time or another, all normal children are noisy, irrational, stubborn, mischievous, and rebellious. These are common moods of an emotionally healthy child.

To treat them as developmental phases through which the child must pass undisciplined and the parents must suffer undisturbed is sheer nonsense.

Part of the process of growing up consists precisely in learning to control these passing moods.

SECOND, YOU must look upon your children as part of the family; they are not the whole of it. They must learn respect for the rights of others, consideration for others' feelings, and cooperation as a member of the family team.

Because children uniformly start life as pretty much the center of things, they must be taught that there are others in the world.

There is something absurd about parents who allow their undisciplined children to disrupt family order at will.

THIRD, THERE is a world of difference between love and over-indulgence. Even young children are quick to exploit over-indulgent parents.

Since one of the hardest lessons in life is to learn to take "no" for an answer, you would be unfair to your children if you deprived them of the opportunity to learn this lesson in the home.

FOURTH, YOU will put an undue strain on your children

if you expect them to be able to make up their own minds and plan their own activities at all times. They lack the knowledge, self-control and experience required for this.

Hence they become restless, irritable and peevish when you refuse to lay down regulations and enforce them.

Children take parental control for granted. What upsets them is to be forced to meet problems and make decisions for which they are not yet prepared.

FIFTH, GROWING up is a gradual process which requires growth and time. Your job as parents is to assist your children to learn the proper norms of conduct and to acquire the self-control needed to live up to them.

This means instruction, encouragement, discipline, good example and steady growth in assuming responsibility.

Your children are not adults, but they are moving toward adulthood. You will not help them by treating them as if they were already adults.

Now they need affection and the sense of being wanted. They also need instruction, firm discipline and an opportunity to learn what it means to live as a member of a group.

Step by step, as their experience widens and their self-control increases, you can teach them to rely upon themselves rather than upon you.

In this sense, all good parents finally work themselves out of a job! The point to remember is that it takes time.



Children Cheer Pope

Vatican City — (NC) — Waving little white and yellow papal flags school children greet Pope Pius XII with shouts of "Viva Il Papa," as the Pontiff was borne into St. Peter's Basilica to attend one of his regular weekly general audiences.

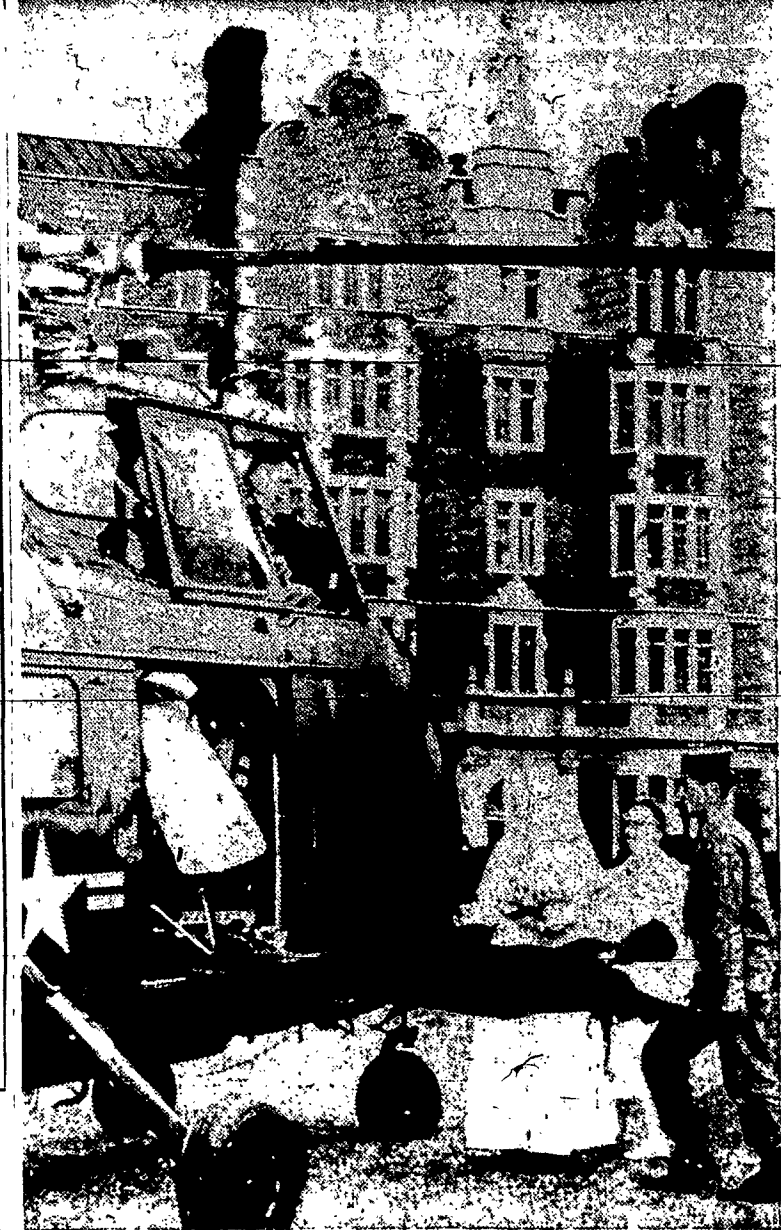
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Mosaics Feature New Cathedral In St. Louis

St. Louis — (NC) — One of the greatest programs of church decoration ever undertaken in the New World is under way in this city, where artists and craftsmen from two continents are working on the huge St. Louis Cathedral.

Walls and domes of the Byzantine-style structure are being lined with mosaics — hundreds of thousands of tiny stones — many gleaming with 24-carat gold leaf. Cost of mosaics is ready installed, combined with those scheduled for installation within the next year, has been estimated at two million dollars. However, five more years will be needed before the cathedral domes are entirely covered.

"When finished, the St. Louis Cathedral will have more mosaics than any other church in the world, even Santa Sophia in Constantinople," said Arno Heuduck of the Ravenna Company, which is installing the mosaics.



Spiritual Director Named For Nurses

Washington (NC) Msgr. Augustine C. Dalton, Dorchester, Mass., has been appointed spiritual director of the National Council of Catholic Nurses, it was announced here.

Archbishop, Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati, Episcopal Chairman of the Department of Lay Organizations, National Catholic Welfare Conference, named Msgr. Dalton to succeed Father Ignatius Smith, O.P., who died in March.

Army Whirly-Bird To Rescue

No crowded highways hindered this mission of mercy as Army Sergeant Joseph Whitley of Fort Bragg, N. C., is picked up by helicopter on the lawn of St. Joseph's Hospital, Southern Pines, N. C., for treatment on nearby army post. He was badly injured in an automobile accident. (NC Photos)

Letters Pour In For Beatification Causes Of St. Therese's Parents

Paterson, N. J. (NC) — Scores of letters are being received here in behalf of the beatification causes of Louis and Azele-Marie Martin, parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower.

The letters are in response to a recommendation made by Bishop James A. McNulty of Paterson to "friends of the Little Flower." Before leaving here to head a pilgrimage to Europe, the Bishop said that he would personally acknowledge each letter received by him.

INDIVIDUAL LETTERS must be sent in for the beatification cause of each parent. Mimeographed forms or letters that contain a number of signatures are not accepted in such a cause by the Sacred Congregation of Rites. Only one signature should appear on each letter.

Each letter must bear a personal signature and the sender should state whether he is writing in behalf of the cause of Louis Martin or Azele-Marie Martin. If the sender favors the beatification causes of both, he must write separate letters for each of the parents of the Little Flower.

IN HIS REQUEST for letters, Bishop McNulty pointed out that Bishop Andre Jacquemin of Bayeux, France, has begun the preliminary diocesan process in the cause.

Bishop McNulty stated: "At this time it is customary and useful to address letters to His Holiness, indicating interest in the cause. A petition is not made for beatification but simply to undertake the cause of these two Servants of God. A separate letter is needed for each of the parents."

LOUIS AND AZELE-MARIE Martin gave five daughters to the religious life. Four became Carmelite nuns and one a Visitation nun. In addition to the Little Flower, those who became Carmelites at Lisieux were Pauline, Mother Agnes of Jesus; Marie, Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart, both of whom are now dead; and Celine, Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face, who is living at the Carmel in Lisieux. Sister Genevieve, who is 88, observed the 60th anniversary of her religious profession on February 24, 1956.

Leonie, Sister Frances Teresa was the Visitation nun. She died in the Visitation monastery at

Rackets' Probe Held Good For Labor

New York — (NC) — The Senate investigation into labor racketeering will prove to be "the best thing for labor in the long run," delegates to the 12th national Association of Catholic Trade Unionists convention here were told.

The advice came from Msgr. George C. Higgins, director of the Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, the keynote speaker.

STATING THAT everyone interested in social action is concerned with the present "racketeering crisis," Msgr. Higgins told the delegates that while the Senate committee hearings have highlighted the black sheep in American unionism it will prove to be "the best thing for labor in the long run."

"Thank God," the Monsignor said, that the move to clean house has come at this time. Ten years from now a "substantial cleanup" would have been much more difficult to effect, he added.

An example of the latter, he said, is the exploitation of Puerto Rican workers by certain unions, a direct violation of "the purpose for which unions were established."

THE NCWC OFFICIAL criticized ranks and file union members for their failure to face the problems of the union movement in this country, and for their lack of interest.

"In many cases they have better leadership than they deserve," he declared.

Acknowledging that the many Catholic University Summer Sessions

Washington — (NC) — The Catholic University of America summer session has broken all previous records for attendance. More than 3,400 students are enrolled. The previous high was 3,245 students in 1947.

distractions in these times call for a "real sacrifice" on the part of those participating in unions. Msgr. Higgins said the greatest is of training Catholic lay people interested in social action to be active in unions.

Primate Offers Proposal For United Ireland

London — (NC) — A plan by the Cardinal-Primate of All Ireland for a united Ireland was placed before the Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth of Nations meeting in London.

THE PLAN put forward by His Eminence John Cardinal D'Ailton, Archbishop of Armagh, offers a basis for positive action to heal the rupture between industrial north and the poorer republican south now being aggravated by terrorism largely on the part of the extreme and outlawed Irish Republican Army organization.

The Cardinal who first outlined his suggestions late last winter, proposes that instead of the northern quarter remaining a part of the United Kingdom hardly on speaking terms with the rest of the country, the whole island should be formed into a federation of northern and southern states.

The federation would be associated within the British Commonwealth as a republic on the same basis as India.

NO ONE would lose any actual independence by this alliance to the British Commonwealth, and the part of Ireland which is now a republic outside the Commonwealth would benefit economically.

A copy of the Cardinal's plan was sent to each of the 16 Commonwealth leaders — seven of whom actually Prime Ministers — attending the private conference in London.

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