

How Should Husbands And Wives Divide Authority In The Home?

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How much authority should the husband exercise in the home? My wife and I work things out together well as a team. She runs the home and does much of the buying, while I earn the money. We agree fairly well in handling the children. This seems to work out all right, but lately I've read a lot of statements to the effect that modern men have made a mistake in giving women so much authority. What does it mean to be the head of the home?

IT WOULD BE EASY to answer your question if terms like authority and leadership could be meaningfully defined apart from the social situation within which they are exercised. Even a slight knowledge of different social systems reveals that this is not possible.

Perhaps we can clarify the problem by starting with general principles and then proceeding to concrete situations. According to Catholic teaching husband and wife are absolutely equal as persons.

They enjoy equal rights in what pertains to the marriage contract. However, because they fulfill different roles in reproduction, they have different roles in the family. The husband's headship must consequently be defined in terms of the common good of the family unit. In marriage, husband and wife unite to form a special society in which their sexual complementarity gives them different roles. The husband's authority, therefore, stems from and is limited by his role as protector and provider of the reproductive unit. It is not a privilege which he can use for his own interest. It can never legitimately extend beyond the purpose for which it was established by God, namely, the good of the family.

AS A GOING CONCERN, the family, like any other society, requires someone in authority. The husband's job as breadwinner normally places him in the best position to fulfill this function. When social conditions change, the manner and amount of authority he exercises necessarily changes.

WHAT REALLY COUNTS in marriage is that both husband and wife work for the best interests of the family. As the chief breadwinner and provider, the husband has not only the authority but the serious



obligation to plan for the long range welfare of his family. When he takes this obligation seriously, wife and children find little difficulty in looking up to him. Every normal woman is proud to have married a man capable of assuming responsibility.

I feel that much of this talk about authority is beside the point. The real problem is that too many husbands become totally preoccupied with their work or with outside activities and leave the entire task of running the household and caring for the children to their wives.

If you and your wife have learned to work together as a team, so much the better. The main point is that you shoulder your share of responsibility in training, guiding, and directing your children. If you do this, you will be head of the family.

Carmelites Hold Congress At Fatima

Fatima — (RNS) — Intensified prayers for the canonization of Blessed Nuno Alvarez Pereira, 15th century Portuguese national hero who became a Carmelite lay brother, were urged in a resolution adopted here by the third international biennial congress of the Third Order Secular of Mount Carmel.

THE CONGRESS also called for the "solid spiritual instruction" of candidates for membership in the Carmelite Third Order. In addition, it recommended that professed members be properly instructed concerning their pledges "so that they may serve as standard bearers of the Carmelite way of life."

The congress especially urged the "deepening of Marian and liturgical life" in the Third Order. Theme of the congress was "Marian Living," the imitation of the virtues of the Blessed Virgin.

Another resolution requested Bishop Jose Alves Correia da Silva of Leiria to encourage use of the invocation, "Holy Mother, Splendor of Mt. Carmel, Pray for Us," by sick pilgrims visiting Fatima. The Fatima shrine is in the bishop's diocese.

A highlight of the congress was the consecration by Adeodato Cardinal Piazza, protector of the Third Order, of the new Carmelite international retreat center here dedicated to Blessed Nuno. The cardinal, who is secretary of the Sacred Consistorial Congregation in Rome, later celebrated a Pontifical Mass in the center's chapel.



Camps Near Season's End

East Troy, Wis.—(NC)—Summer camps across the country dedicated to making boys better Americans and better Catholics are closing their doors this month to scenes like this at Divine Word Missionaries' Camp Richards. Divine Word Missionaries teach camps the safety value of the Buddy Board. Even the camp will "go back to school" in September, once again becoming a Divine Word Seminary.

Housing Site On Church Property

Millbury, Mass.—(RNS)—The old St. Bridget's church property here has been decided by Bishop John J. Wright of Worcester, without fee, to the Millbury Housing Authority for use as a housing project to benefit elderly persons.

The property includes a frame church building vacated in 1955, and 35,000 square feet of land.

The church, one of the most historic in the diocese, was abandoned when a new stone church was erected in another part of town.

Bishop Wright said he was presenting the property to the Authority "in view of the necessary and praiseworthy civic welfare project which the Housing Authority would develop on the land."

The proposed housing project for the elderly was at the point of being abandoned for want of a suitable site when Bishop Wright heard of the predicament and made the offer.

Plans call for the Authority to raze the church and construct 24 units of miniature spiritual motel-style units.

Lutherans To Study Catholic Doctrine

Minneapolis — (NC) — The Lutheran World Federation's executive committee has approved plans to study the usefulness of an institute which would sponsor discussions of theological differences between Catholics and Lutherans.

THE PROJECT was announced to delegates at the federation's world assembly here by Dr. Carl L. Lundquist, executive secretary, who said that "a thorough theological encounter with the Roman Catholic Church" was needed today.

A year's study of the feasibility of the institute will be made before concrete plans to establish it are developed, he told delegates.

The ten-day assembly attracted about 275 official delegates and some 425 official visitors representing about 50 million Lutherans in 50 countries. It is the first of the assemblies, held every five years, to take place on American soil.

After the announcement, Bishop Hanns Lipke of Hanover, Germany, president of the world federation, elaborated on the project at a news conference.

"Each generation of Protestants must rethink the decision of the 16th century. We must be able to say why we today are not Roman Catholics," he said.

'Last Book' To Be Published

New York—(NC)—P. J. Kennedy & Sons book publishers has announced it will publish in March 1958, a work entitled "My Last Book" by the late Father James M. Gillis, who was an outstanding Catholic journalist.

He died March 14, this year.

The book was written during the last years of Father Gillis' life and is edited by Paulist Father Joseph McSorley. It consists of a series of reflections and meditations.

Father McSorley described it as "a sort of miniature spiritual autobiography."



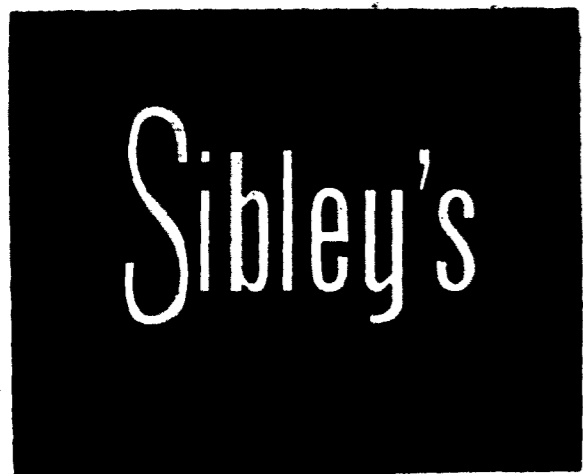
Maryknoll Music

Maryknoll — (NC) — A lady of action is Miss Evelyn Burwell, noted composer. Upon finding out that the hymn "Maryknoll, My Maryknoll," written by the late Bishop Francis X. Ford, M.M., had no original music, she wrote a complete score for it. A daily communicant, she was received into the church in 1941.

Mother Dengel Re-elected Superior

Philadelphia — (NC) — Mother Anna Dengel was re-elected Superior General of the Medical Mission Sisters, which she founded.

Born in the Austrian Tyrol, educated in France and Ireland, Mother Dengel was a lay missionary doctor in northern India before she founded the Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries in 1925.



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