

Modern Society Places A Heavy Burden On Some Catholic Couples

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How much longer is the Church going to ignore modern living conditions? Most of her rules on marriage and the family were developed when people lived in a rural society. As it is now, couples who try to live by these rules find it practically impossible to get ahead. Just about everything they earn goes to raising a family. Why must sincere Catholic couples be shackled by an outmoded set of rules.

This is a major adjustment. But it is not the only one. Others who feel awkward about some of the Church's doctrine on marriage and the family. There can be no doubt that social conditions have changed. Most of Western Society has moved from a purely rural to an industrialized urban way of life. Some of the social changes accompanying this shift have not proved beneficial to family life.

Poor and unsanitary housing, unemployment, inadequate wages, industrial accidents and sickness, insecurity because of total dependence on the pay envelope, these, and many others, have created serious problems for the family.

Furthermore when production is centered in the shop or factory, not the home, children cease to be productive. They become "mouths" rather than "hands" as in a rural society. At the same time, since the wife can now enter the labor force only by working outside the home, the process of bearing and rearing children also prevents her from increasing the family income by holding a job.

Finally, in American society, dating and courtship patterns promote early marriages, thus increasing the likelihood of numerous children. On the other hand, the American standard of living is geared to the small family.

Many couples solve this dilemma by the use of contraceptive birth control. The Church teaches that this is seriously sinful. Here lies your complaint against her "outmoded" rules.

Now who made the laws controlling birth control? I shall answer this question by asking another. Who created man "male and female" and endowed human nature with sexual faculties by means of which man is privileged to cooperate with the Creator in bringing forth new life?

It was God. In giving man reproductive faculties, the Creator thereby decreed the laws which govern their proper use, for these laws are based on the nature of things as God made them. How do we know the nature of things? By studying their operations.

NOW IF WE analyze the reproductive system we see that in men and women carry the copricinciples of life. But neither life nor the copricinciples of life are under man's direct dominion. They pertain directly to the Creator. Hence, man cannot use sex primarily for his own pleasure but only according to the purpose which God gave it.



Whether conception then follows or not is not in his power to decide. To interfere with the natural process by using contraceptives would be to act contrary to right reason, for he would then be both willing the reproductive act and not willing it at the same time. It would be seriously sinful because he would be usurping God's dominion over the copricinciples of life.

THIS MEANS that if man chooses to make use of sex, he may not interfere with the normal physiological process which his act has initiated.

Modern man is not the first to have sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. No one denies that modern society may place heavy burdens on some Catholic couples. The basic question is, should we direct our criticism against the evils and shortcomings in our social system or against the Creator of human nature? Remember, there is a hierarchy of values in life — "Seek ye first the kingdom of God."

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Priest Cites Fund Need For Psychiatry Study

Cincinnati — (NC) — Catholic graduate schools are sorely in need of funds for essential research in sociology and economics, according to a leading Catholic educator.

These are "crucial" areas for graduate school research, said Jesuit Father Robert E. Henle, dean of the St. Louis University graduate school. He made the statement in an address delivered before the national committee of deans of Catholic graduate schools, meeting at Xavier University here.

Father Henle is chairman of the committee.

He cited the relationship between religion and psychiatry and the problem of world population trends as two questions

Oil Company Gives Grants To Colleges

Washington — (NC) — Seven Catholic colleges and universities were among 84 private institutions sharing in a total of \$500,000 in Esso Education grants to stimulate the teaching of science.

GEORGETOWN University, a Jesuit school here, and the University of Dayton (Ohio), conducted by the Society of Mary, (Marianists) were among 11 schools getting \$50,000 grants for building and equipment to be used for science and engineering purposes, the Foundation announced here.

Loyola University, Chicago, and Fordham University, New York City, both Jesuit institutions, got grants of \$5,000 each for graduate departments of science and engineering.

THE CATHOLIC University of America here, St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Ind., conducted by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, and Manhattan College, New York City, a Christian Brothers' school, each got \$3,000 grants for their undergraduate departments.

The money was made available by the Standard Oil Company (New Jersey) as part of its \$150,000, three-year program to aid building scientists.

Student Loss Of Faith In Secular Schools Cited

St. Louis, Mo. — (RNS) — A Newman Club chaplain said here that a "tremendous" number of Catholics enrolled in secular universities lose their faith.

The Rev. Gerard N. Glynn said the big danger to Catholic students at secular schools is not Communism but the secular environment.

"They lose their Catholic nerve and become fallen angels. After they have been subjected to arguments that conflict with Catholic doctrine," he said.

FATHER GLYNN is chaplain of the Newman Club at Washington University here.

He said the university administration has been extremely cooperative and given him an "open door" in his work.

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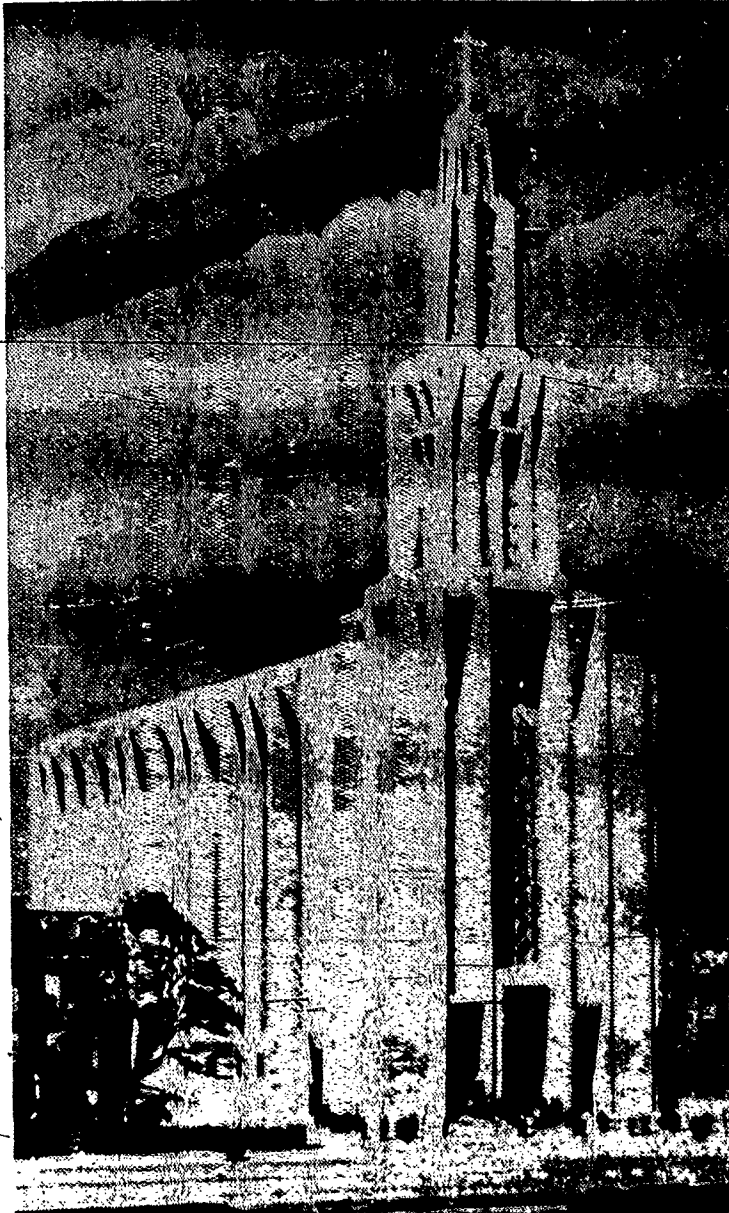
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New Cathedral For Hartford

Hartford — (NC) — A magnificent new Cathedral for the Archdiocese of Hartford has been announced by Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien, of Hartford. A total of 1,800 persons will be seated in the main church, and 1,000 in a lower church. The new building is designed by Eggers and Higgins Co., to replace old St. Joseph's Cathedral destroyed by fire on December 31st, 1956.

Sukarno Cancels Visit To Pope

Vatican City — (NC) — The visit of Indonesian President Sukarno to Pope Pius XII, scheduled for December 23, has been cancelled.

An official bulletin issued by Indonesia's legation to the Holy See stated that the visit has been postponed because of the President's ill health.

Fordham University Becomes Defendant In Taxpayers Suit

New York — (RNS) — Fordham University intervened as a defendant in a taxpayers' suit to prevent the city from reselling land to it at a loss in connection with the proposed Lincoln Square redevelopment project.

Attorneys for the Catholic school argued in State Supreme Court here that the suit is a direct attack on the university's right to legally contract with the city as guaranteed in the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.

They also contended that a decision prohibiting Fordham from purchasing land in the 13-block area would violate the school's right to full exercise of religious freedom as provided by the First Amendment. Such a decision, they contended, would reduce Fordham to "second-class citizenship."

JUSTICE OWEN MCGIVERN did not render a decision. All parties agreed that a ruling should be delayed until the city's attorneys file a reply brief in answer to one submitted at the hearing by Harris L. Present, attorney for the taxpayers' group.

A principal argument in the taxpayers' suit is that the city paid more than \$16 a foot for the property acquired for condemnation and is planning to resell it to Fordham for \$7 a foot. The taxpayers' group contends this will result "in a direct subsidy to a sectarian institution."

Porter B. Chaville, one of the attorneys for Fordham, maintained that purchase of the land by the University in no way implied "directly or indirectly" and to prohibit it from doing so would be "a grave discrimination against its right to full and free protection of the law."

If such a decision is made, he contended, it will result eventually in all sectarian buildings being moved out of the state because "in one way or another public authorities more and more are taking over areas previously in private use."

IT WOULD MEAN, further, he said, that if a church in an area which had been condemned by the city wished to buy back the property on which it originally stood, it could not rightly do so unless it paid the same price paid by the city to acquire the land.

Sanford L. Scharris, an attorney for the West Side Chamber of Commerce, which favors sale of the land to Fordham, also testified at the hearing. He argued that separation of Church and state was not approved since "no one church is to be established at the expense and freedom of other religions."

Chapel Honors Galvani, Electrical Pioneer

Bologna — (NC) — In the presence of Giacomo Cardinal Lorenzini, Archbishop of Bologna, a chapel was dedicated here to the memory of Luigi Galvani, 18th century Italian scientist.

The new chapel was erected in Corpus Christi Church near the tomb in which Galvani was buried in December, 1798.

LUIGI GALVANI, who was born in Bologna in 1737, is best remembered for his experiments with electricity. He died December 21, 1820.

and gave up his post as professor of anatomy at the University of Bologna rather than take the civil oath demanded by the state which was contrary to his political and religious convictions. He died in utter poverty. His brother, Tommaso, in Bologna on December 21, 1820.

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