

Parents Won't Let Me Go Out in Cars With Other Teen-agers

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.
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This isn't a marriage problem, but it's very important to me. This summer I'll be fifteen and a sophomore in high school. My parents won't let me out in cars with teenagers. I feel awful because everyone's planning things to go and places to go, and I'm going to be left out. To make it even worse, Mother says I won't be allowed out in cars UNTIL I AM 17. I'm really disgusted.

I think I know how you feel, Susan. At fifteen life seems very short and very full of things to do, so it's pretty rough to be "left out," as you put it. Your mother has put her foot down because she feels that teenage drivers lack experience and like to show off.

You argue that they're not all that way and besides, "when they give you driver's license," it shows that you are fit to take on the responsibilities that go with it.

NOW, SUSAN, I quite agree with you that all teenage drivers aren't inexperienced or careless. A good many of them are really excellent drivers. Of course, as you admit, there are always some "drips" who can't drive, or who like to show off, but you insist, "all the kids in our crowd detest show-offs and recognize them for what they are—big babies!"

Granting that this may be true, aren't you overlooking a very important point in this matter—the Fourth Commandment? You parents have decided that they don't want you to go out in cars driven by teenagers because they feel



that it is not safe—they may have other very sound reasons which they may feel it is not necessary to explain at present, and you are thoroughly disgusted with them.

How does your attitude relate to the Fourth Commandment? God's command that children honor their father and

Canada Bishops Urge Stronger Family Life

Ottawa — (NC) — The Bishops of Canada have warned that "one of the first symptoms of the decay of a civilization is the disintegration of its family life."

The Bishops made this point in a statement on "Family Life in Canada," issued following their annual meeting here.

The statement also dealt with housing, working mothers, parental leadership, poor wages, unemployment and the practice of holding a second job, commonly known as "moonlighting."

"At a time when Christian teaching about marriage is being assaulted and family life is in jeopardy," the Bishops declared, "we reaffirm emphatically the Church's constant teaching that marriage was instituted by God."

They called divorce and artificial birth prevention "flagrant sins against God's plan for marriage and the family" and "sin against man's nature."

They urged "government at every level to have regard for families first of all, when determining or implementing official policy, and to recognize and respect the fact that the family has sacred rights entitled to priority before those of any other institution, including the state itself."

Serious efforts follow from insufficient and inadequate housing, the Bishops stated. Many mothers think they are obliged to work outside the home. Parents place unnatural curbs on the growth of families. Members of families are robbed of chances for developing their talents, and delinquency on the part of all members results.



Peace Prize Winner Plans More DP Aid

Huy, Belgium — (RNS) — Father Dominique Georges Pire, O.P., winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1958, points to the location of villages he founded for DP's in Germany, Austria and Italy. The Belgium-born Dominican priest has been engaged since 1949 in working for refugees and displaced

persons from Eastern countries unable to obtain emigration visas. Describing himself as a "penniless man," he disclosed that this year \$10,500,000 was spent on his projects of mercy. For himself, however, he said all he needs is a good place to work, a car and a telephone.

Persecution 'Exaggerated'

Cleveland — (RNS) — A veteran Evangelical and Reformed Church missionary said here that reports of Roman Catholic persecution of Protestants in South America are greatly exaggerated.

Addressing the annual meeting of the E. & R. Board of International Missions, the Rev. Harold N. Adler of St. Louis, Mo., stressed that the background of these reports must be more carefully understood.

In Columbia for example, he said, reports of persecution stem largely from political causes because the Conservative Party there is predominantly Catholic while the Liberal Party is mainly Protestant.

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By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

There are 70,000,000 "Untouchables" in India. Last year a million of these outcasts whom Gandhi called the "children of God" converted to Buddhism for this "conversion" meant a change in their social status. Entrance into the Catholic Church is dependent upon faith, instruction, moral worth and long preparation, thus only a few embrace the Faith and become indeed "children of God."

A BISHOP who was in our office recently, told us that he has 100,000 "Untouchables" in his diocese and only 37,000 Catholics from among all classes. More astounding still, he sorrowfully told that 80 per cent of the people in his area do not average one meal a day.

THE PRIESTS of his diocese receive a salary of \$10 a month; his catechists, who instruct converts, live on \$7 a month. He receives from the Holy Father about \$13,000 a year on which to run his diocese, build churches and schools, and feed the hungry.

WHY DOES NOT the Holy Father give him more? Because he cannot! The Holy Father has to support 604 other dioceses in Africa and Asia besides caring for 6,000 hospitals and 55,000 schools. Because the Catholics of the United States last year gave the Holy Father, through his Society for the Propagation of the Faith, only \$66 each, the hands of the Supreme Pontiff are too readily emptied.

NOW THAT the Holy Spirit has given us a new Holy Father would it not be well for us to give him, for his missions, a Coronation Gift? What a joy it would be to His Holiness if by the First of the year we could send him a sacrifice from every student and every adult in the United States. By giving to him we prove:

- a) our faith in the Vicar of Christ
- b) our obedience to him in following his plea that he is to be "first and principally aided"
- c) our sense of equality for who better than the Vicar of Christ knows and serves all the missions of the world?

Send your sacrifices to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N.Y. We will forward it to the former Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in Italy, His Holiness Pope John XXIII.

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N.Y., or your Diocesan Director Rev. George S. Wood, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

mother surely implies more than blind, unwilling obedience. Doesn't the term honor involve respect, esteem and an earnest effort to understand their point of view?

Let's look at the problem as they see it. They're not morons, nor do they lack experience in life. They're not trying to hurt you or make you unhappy.

On the contrary, they have worked very hard to give you all the things you now enjoy. But perhaps they see danger where there is none to be feared? This is certainly possible, but looking at the matter objectively, do you sincerely believe that you are a better judge in this matter than they? Haven't their own youth and their own past experience taught them a great deal?

I know, Susan, young people frequently insist that their parents do not understand them, there is some truth in this statement, of course, but most of the time it means nothing more than that their parents do not agree with them on certain points of conduct.

The reason for this difference of views is not far to seek. Teenagers look at their world in terms of their own relatively limited experience and judge what is important or worthwhile in life on the same basis. Just reflect how your own views have changed since you were a child! Parents likewise look at the world in terms of their past experience—clearly, they have seen more of life than their children.

In judging what is important and worthwhile, they consequently tend to take a long range view.

Hence we shouldn't be surprised if parents and young people don't always see eye to eye. But when differences arise, who is more likely to be right? This doesn't necessarily mean that "Mother always knows best," though there's a pretty good chance that she knows more than her adolescent daughter.

WHERE DOES THIS leave you, Susan? Well, unless your parents change their mind, I suppose you'll miss a few rides.

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