

## Is 'Going-Steady' Among Teens A Serious Sin As Some Claim?

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
At St. Louis University

I have heard quite a bit about teenagers "going steady" and I've heard the pros and cons of it, but I'm not quite sure whether it is a serious sin. I know that some priests have threatened students with expulsion from school if they are found to be going steady, and yet I have heard some Catholics say that they have been told it is not a serious sin and others have said it is serious. I hope you can set me straight in this matter.

You're very mature for your age, Billy, though I can understand why this question of steady dating among teenagers should puzzle you. It has troubled older heads than yours, and will probably continue to do so for some time.

Why is it so difficult to deal with?

Well, in the first place, Billy, "going steady" means many different things. That's one of the reasons why some priests are quoted as giving different answers — they have really been asked different questions. We have to know how they define "going steady" before we can logically compare their answers.

LET'S LOOK at some of the meanings the term may include. It may represent what formerly was called courtship. A young man and woman of marriageable age discover that they like each other very much and start going together exclusively. They may go out with other couples, exchange dances with them, and so forth, but they are publicly recognized as "steadies," so that to date somebody else would probably mark the end of the affair.

This term may also mean little more than that a boy and girl can safely rely on each other for dates. This is a conventional, often unexpressed agreement that they will go places together. It is a more or less typical pattern during the school year and tends to be a temporary, though a few cases continue on into mature courtship.

The term may also stand for a current fad among some teenagers in which immature boys and girls, with no reasonable thought of marriage, use the exclusive, intimate, affectionate association of engaged couples.

They agree to go out together, and when they are with others, to remain exclusively as a couple, that is, they dance only with themselves, and so forth. This necessarily hinders them from acquiring social maturity, since they really become acquainted only with each other.

At the same time, their exclusive agreement often implies intimate displays of affection — remember, they are trying to imitate engaged couples. Now, Billy, don't have to tell you that although these youngsters are far from a marriageable age, they are sufficiently developed biologically (sexually) so that such displays of affection are normally designed to arouse their passions.

It is this third definition of going steady which has caused all the popular concern.

You ask, is it seriously sinful? Well, what moral principles are involved here?

First, you know it is wrong for an unmarried person to consent to sexual pleasure in himself, or deliberately to cause



the danger of such in another. Second, it follows that one is not permitted to create a situation (enter an occasion) in which exclusive shows that sin is likely to result.

Applying these principles to the third definition of going steady, it is clear that young boys and girls who agree to such exclusive, intimate association are placing themselves in a situation which is likely, by the very nature of their immaturity, exclusiveness, and intimacy, to lead to sexual arousal and consequent sin.

This does not mean that all such associations lead to sin; it is sufficient that the situation is designed to do so, and does have this result in many cases. It is wrong deliberately to enter a situation or an occasion in which sin is thus likely to result.

Furthermore, Billy, even if this type of going steady did not involve the danger of sin, there are serious reasons why it should be avoided.

Boys and girls owe it to themselves to strive for social maturity, that is, to learn how to associate with others and to become acquainted with different types of character and personality. If they make a reasonable effort to do this while they are growing up they will be prepared for the very important task of picking their marriage partner with some intelligence when the time comes.

Some people fall into the rut of going steady because they are afraid to mix with others. Remember, you are a social being, if it is a young person you don't learn to enjoy the association of others, when will you learn?

## Parents' Example Said Pupils' Need

Cincinnati — (NC) — Parents must be "vitaly interested" in their children's school success, and this means "much more than just overseeing their homework."

Glen A. La Grange, professor of education and psychology at Xavier University, offered this advice to the Parent-Teacher Association of St. Clare's parish here.

"A home where nobody reads a book, is a home where children are poorly motivated for school work," said Mr. La Grange.

Calling for a "spirit of genuine interest" in the child's academic progress, the speaker deplored the "widespread apathy toward learning" which he said is characteristic of the present day.

"Children are continually learning by watching older people like hawks," said Mr. La Grange, who is the father of six children. Parents who spend their time watching "stupid television programs" or who "keep the kids quiet by letting them watch inane programs" give their children a poor example, he said.

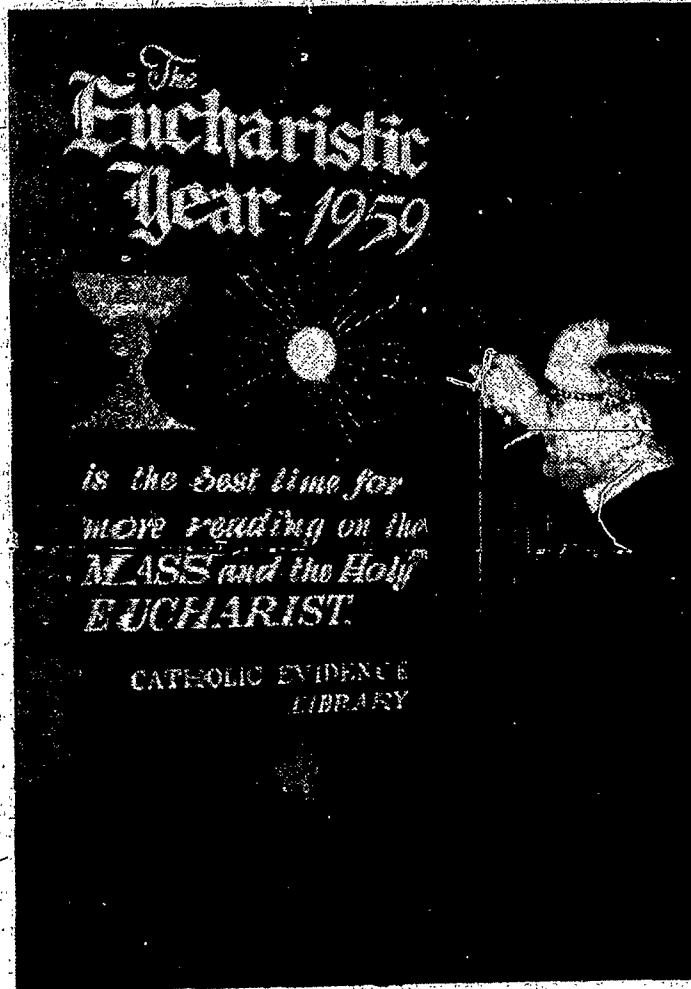
## Mother's Faith Vindicated

Brooklyn — (NC) — "My first faith was in God," said a jubilant mother whose infant daughter was recovered nine days after she had been kidnaped from St. Peter's Hospital here.

The baby, Lisa Rose Chionchio, was found in the Brooklyn apartment of Mrs. Jean Iavarone, 43-year-old mother of eight children. Police arrested her for kidnaping the child.

James B. Leggett, chief of detectives, said that Lisa Rose was identified by her father, Frank Chionchio, who immediately phoned his wife, Frances, that the baby was alive and healthy.

"I never gave up hope that Lisa would be found," said Mrs. Chionchio. "My first faith was in God. My second in the FBI and the police."



is the best time for more reading on the MASS and the HOLY EUCHARIST.

CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY

## Books For Eucharistic Reading

Books for Eucharistic Year reading are available in Catholic Evidence Library in Columbus Building, Chestnut St., Rochester, as poster held by Father Joseph Reinhart announces. Marion P. Warner, in photo at right, librarian, helps Walter J. Kester find the right book. Library is open weekdays 4 to 6 and 7 to 9 p.m., not Saturdays.



## Six Little Pigs Leave Monastery

Barstow, Ky. — (NC) — The Trappist Abbey of Gethsemani near here acted as a middleman to alleviate two woes of a Kentucky farm boy whose six valued pigs were killed by a train.

Connie Cunningham, a 4H member whose father is a tenant farmer near Alton in Anderson County, Ky., had been given a Duroc gilt. A month after the gilt had produced 10 pigs, six of them wandered onto tracks of the Southern Railroad System and were killed.

CONNIE APPEALED for help to Ed Ruggles, Anderson County agricultural extension agent. Mr. Ruggles sent a letter to Washington to Harry A. DeButts, president of the Southern Railway System.

Mr. DeButts wrote Connie that "some very fine people in Kentucky are now trying to help us find replacements for the pigs you lost."

Then continued the search for

the replacements. And with the help of the University of Kentucky's college of agriculture they were found, at the Gethsemani Farms of the Trappist abbey. The Trappist monks conduct one of the largest breeding farms for this kind of swine in the country.

One morning Connie, his father, a state 4H leader and a representative of the Southern Railway arrived at the Trappist abbey.

There Brother Coleman, manager of the swine department, greeted the party with six pigs wearing bright red ribbons around their necks.

Connie immediately clasped one of the pigs in his arms and vowed to be very careful in taking care of them.

## Comrades Now Catholics

Shembanur, India — (NC) — Thirteen prominent Indian communists who left the party "in disgust" have become Catholics here.

Former Comrade Sreenivasan, who spent 10 years as an active propaganda worker for the Reds, led 12 of his fellow Communist party members into the Church.

Mr. Sreenivasan, who chose the baptismal name of Paul, declared that the reading of the Epistles of St. Paul "opened his eyes" to the errors of Marxism. He said that he decided to become a Catholic because he could have "freedom and happiness" only in the Church.

at your copy shop where magazines are sold

### CARMELITE PRIESTS

- Men of Prayer
- Men of Action
- Men of Mercy

Be a Carmelite Priest's own Order in calling for vocations. Write for information today to: Fr. Simons, O. Carm., 100 South St., Auburn, N. Y.

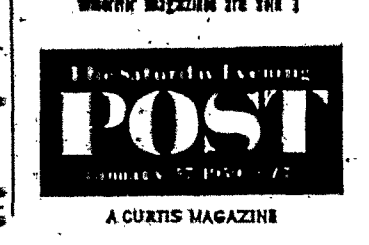
Why is the most influential order of the Roman Catholic Church also the most feared, the most suspected, the most maligned?

In this week's Post you'll discover little-known facts about the Jesuits... about their enemies inside and outside the Church. You'll find out how they work... how they're governed... how their rigid discipline is maintained. You'll learn about their vows of perpetual poverty, chastity and obedience. You'll read, too, about their colleges and universities, and how a Jesuit can be an archaeologist or even a rocket engineer.

Don't miss this fascinating story of how the Jesuits are pushing back the frontiers of ignorance and serving the Church as "The Pope's Commandos."

It's a wonderful week in the Post... 7 articles, 4 stories, 2 serials, many cartoons and exciting photographs.

at your copy shop where magazines are sold



## Salvador

### Try Kodak Next Time!

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Seven-year-old Salvador Fernandez Carillo of San Sebastian, Spain, knew exactly what he wanted from the Three Wise Kings of the East for the Feast of Epiphany. He wasn't quite sure, though, about the address. So he simply wrote on the envelope:

"To the Honoured Kings of the East Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, Jerusalem"

The postal clerk at San Sebastian wasn't too sure about the address, either. But being an orderly soul, and since Salvador had affixed the right postage, he added the word Israel after Jerusalem and so the letter found its way into the office of Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion here. This is what it said:

"Dear Kings, honoured Sirs:

I am a child from San Sebastian. I am very diligent in school. I do all my work well and would like you to send me on the Day of the Three Kings a camera worth 500 pesetas and 10 rolls of film very fine grain. That is all I ask.

A thousand thanks, and so I take my leave, Salvador Fernandez Carillo."

With all the good will in the world, Premier Ben Gurion felt unable to substitute for the Three Kings. But Salvador will soon receive an album of pictures of Israel and one of Israel's Tenth Anniversary memorial coins, but no camera or film.

**RBI**

**NEW SCHOOL FOR OFFICE ASSISTANTS Begins... Monday, January 19**

Classes Meet from 12:30 to 4:30 P.M.

These are a few of the happy people who are now taking the OFFICE ASSISTANTS COURSE. They are enjoying the work, making new friends and looking forward to accepting a good position.

This short (6 months) intensive training in business skills has a special appeal for...

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** still looking for the right job.

**HOUSEWIVES** who would like to assist in husband's business or work part-time.

**BOY OR GIRL** taking P.C. Course, planning to continue to college.

**ANYONE** who has tried and discontinued college, normal school, or nurses training.

**THIS COURSE IS OPEN TO MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL AGES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OFFICE WORK.**

Certificate of Proficiency on Completion. FREE Placement Service. Write, phone, or visit for complete details.

YOUR COMMUNITY CENTER FOR BUSINESS TRAINING

**ROCHESTER BUSINESS INSTITUTE**

112 CLINTON AVE SOUTH • Hamillon 9-0880

**It's our annual Clearance**

**MAHOGANY PLYWOOD**

4'x8'x1/2" V-Plank Pre-Finished Hand Rubbed—Sealed Varnished—Waxed **\$8.98**

Unfinished **\$5.75**

**MAHOGANY** Special Cash & Carry Price **\$4.95**

4'x7'x1/4" V-Plank

**SEE OUR DISPLAY!**

**OPEN EVES, 'til 9—Sat. 'til 5**

**ATLANTIC MILLWORK CO.**

2715 W. Hennetta Rd. (on way to Southtown) GR. 3-3317

# The Perfectly Balanced Whiskey

Distilling alone could never produce the perfect balance in Carstairs. It takes masterful blending... precise balancing of just the right whiskeys with choicest grain neutral spirits to give Carstairs its perfect lightness, perfect taste. Try Carstairs... a fine whiskey at a price you can afford.

the man who cares says

## CARSTAIRS

White Seal Blended Whiskey

**NOW \$4.99 FULL QUART**

CARSTAIRS DIST. CO., BALTIMORE, MD., LOUISVILLE, KY., BLENDED WHISKEY • 86 PROOF • 72% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS