

We're In Trouble—Because I Work The Night Shift And Spend The Day At Home

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.
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Your column has frequently stressed the value of husband and wife being together but we're having trouble because we're together too much. I work a night shift and spend most of the day at home. Edith has a time-keeping-the-children quiet so I can sleep. When I'm awake, there isn't much to do, with the result we seem to quarrel over nothing. It's been going from bad to worse lately. Do you have any suggestions?

There are many American couples who face the same problem as you and Edith.

Modern industrial society is organized to increase efficient production rather than to promote family stability. Jobs calling for long absences from home, split shifts, night work, and so forth, are not uncommon. There are several reasons why they may pose serious problems for married workers, particularly when young children are involved.

Families with children must follow a fairly rigid pattern of sleep, meals, play and work. If the breadwinner's job throws him out of step with this regime, it is bound to put a strain on family members.

Young children quickly forget that father is trying to sleep, while mother finds it impossible to get her work finished if she must spend all of her time keeping the children reasonably quiet.

Although couples normally like to spend a good deal of time together, the presence of the husband in the home during the day is contrary to the usual American pattern and may prove to be a source of trouble. I have already mentioned the wife's problem in keeping the children quiet. Perhaps more important may be the husband's refusal or inability to cooperate with her in caring for the children and running the home.

If he were not there, she would take it for granted that this was entirely her responsibility. However, when he sits around the home after he has had his sleep and refuses to help her out as the occasion arises, she is bound to resent it.

A further source of trouble for the couple may be lack of normal social life. The husband's job may limit their opportunities for enjoying the usual social contacts within the community thus keeping their family circle unduly narrow.

This usually intensifies emotional stress and magnifies differences, so that when quarrels arise, they are not easily settled and tend to be cumulative—one thing leads to another in an increasingly tense situation.

WHAT'S THE BEST way to handle your problem, Martin? Obviously, one solution would be to get a different job. Let's bypass this one for the time being and see if other means are available. I would suggest the following.

Do you appreciate the difficulties your wife must have in keeping the children quiet while you sleep? Of course this isn't your fault, but you must recognize that it increases her



work and may be a considerable burden if your home is small.

Are you cooperative around the house, giving her a hand when she needs help? Now Martin, you may insist that you're doing enough by holding down your own job, but let's look at the situation.

Marriage is a partnership. These are your children as well as hers. The nature of your job places an added burden upon your wife. Unless you are extremely frail, you're probably not utterly worn out when you're home.

You may persist, "This is women's work!" By whose definition? Remember, marriage is a partnership in the service of new life, and you must work together.

Mobile Chapels Serve Refugees

Koenigslein — (RNS) — Twenty-four mobile chapels operated by the Dutch-Belgian Aid for Eastern Priests organization returned to their winter quarters here after serving some 1,000,000 Roman Catholic refugees and displaced persons in West Germany and other West European nations.

Each mobile unit is supplied with an altar and loudspeaker and has storage space for reredos and other supplies. The organization was established in 1949 to provide charitable services and pastoral care to displaced Catholics.

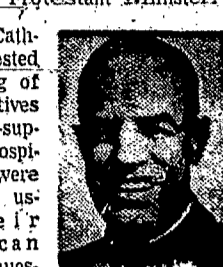
Encyclopedia Supplement

New York — (NC) — The Gilmary Society here has announced that it has issued the ninth section of Supplement II of the Catholic Encyclopedia.

Making Marriage Click Birth Control Question—Stirs Religious Tensions

By MSGR. IRVING A. DeBLANC

"Catholics are constantly trying to impose their ideas of birth control on others, as in the New York hospital case. Many of us think this will all lead someday to a widespread battle of religions."



Monsignor DeBlanc

When Catholics protested the fitting of contraceptives in a state-supported hospital, they were obviously using their American right of questioning the use of their own tax money. It is what any American in like circumstances would do. Further, the Catholics of New York were no more trying to impose their own opinion on others than are our good Protestant brothers who pass prohibition laws and legislate against bingo.

There seems to be an actual enmeshment among some Protestants to defend and promote birth control. It is with deep distress that we sometimes hear reference made in subtle humor to the new Protestant doctrine—the doctrine of the "Immaculate Contraception."

In trying to embarrass and overthrow Catholics, some Protestants seem to be abandoning Christianity itself. We prayerfully hope that the number is few.

We personally cannot even remotely envision a "battle of religions" over this question of birth control. There are too many wise Protestant leaders who see the Catholic Church defending natural law—and who want to battle over that issue?

Natural law is nothing else than a rational creature's participation in the eternal law of God. It is an imprint in man from God Himself by which one discerns good and evil. It is an impulse within man's nature towards this true end. This, therefore, involves certain commandments which cannot be changed or destroyed by any human being or Church, Protestant or Catholic.

Birth control is then intrinsically wrong. It is also a grave act because upon its reasonable use depends the survival

of the human race. There is no other way of peopling the world than through the use of the God-given power of this sacred marriage act.

I say "reasonable" use, for we are not implying that all should have as many children as nature permits. This would lead some to mere biological fertility. That is not Christian. It could, in some circumstances, even be animalistic.

In having more children, a husband is seriously bound not to jeopardize the health of his wife or the decent economic condition of his family. A husband's duty to his wife and existing children is even more pressing than his obligation—if there is one—to procreate more children. The use of contraceptives, however, is absolutely unnatural and always will be.

Between informed Protestants and Catholics there seems to be a growing understanding of all that is involved in this issue of birth control. More and more are understanding the position Catholics defend—that no one is permitted to use an act which is against nature even if the end in view appears to be good. We all agree that couples are not bound to have more children than they can care for—we disagree on the means used.

Pleasure and love-making—contrary to the opinion of some Protestants—are not the primary purposes of the marriage act. They are concomitants of the act but not the purposes of it. Procreation is necessarily involved in the primary.

If pleasure were the primary purpose of the marriage act, then the act might well be called a social convention like handshaking. The marriage act—essential—raison d'être would then, be destroyed and general promiscuity would take over as soon as public opinion would allow it, and if history were to repeat itself, that wouldn't take long.

Irish Friar Dies
Dublin — (RNS) — Father Hubert Quinn, an eminent Irish Franciscan who had been decorated by the Italian and Spanish governments, died here at the age of 71.



Expelled Priest And New Chaplain

Worcester — (RNS) — The Rev. Louis A. Dion, registrar of Assumption College here (right), is congratulated by Father Georges Bissonnette, a fellow Assumptionist, on Father Dion's assignment as chaplain to American Catholics in Moscow. The 44-year-old priest leaves Jan. 20th for his new duties. He will be the first American priest in Moscow since Father Bissonnette was expelled in 1955 from the same position without explanation by the Soviet Union.

Methodist Ministers Urged To 'Recover' Sacraments

St. Paul — (RNS) — Minnesota Protestant pastors were called on here to "rediscover and recover" the Sacraments "as an essential part of the life of the Church and a vital element in communicating the Gospel."

The plea came from a Methodist theologian, Dr. Albert C. Outler, professor at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Tex.

The place to begin, he said, is with a deeper study of "the meaning of grace and the means of grace."

In a second lecture, Dr. Outler called for an urgent reconsideration of Baptism. Protestants, he observed, "are in a genuine doctrinal crisis" with respect to Baptism.

In a third lecture, Dr. Outler said any discussion must seek common understanding about the Lord's Supper.

"OUR CHURCHES," he said, "are starving for the lack of radical, soul-searching, heart-warming encounters with the Living God. One could almost say of a typical Protestant service of worship that it is a meeting of a group of people to talk about God and to recommend the good life to each other in a friendly atmosphere which neither disturbs nor heals the profound hurt of a shattered or estranged soul."

Dr. Barnes said the Eucharist is the supreme act of worship, "in which all other acts find their proper meaning and validation. The recovery of the Eucharist would be a recovery of worship."

Survey Shows Hospital Needs In Rochester

St. Mary's and eight other Rochester area hospitals will need to expand their facilities by 508 new beds to meet a growing population, a survey by the Rochester Regional Hospital Council revealed today.

The additional hospital facilities would be approximately equivalent to another 309-bed combined westside and northside General Hospital plus the 201-bed St. Mary's Hospital.

Details of the survey were announced by Edward Peck Curtis, chairman of a special committee which studied existing facilities and population statistics.

Target date for completing the needed new construction is 1970.

MR. CURTIS said either the nine hospitals now serving the Rochester area will have to expand their present facilities or entirely new hospital units will have to be established.

The survey did not include psychiatric or chronic patient facilities, only those "acutely" ill who are in need of medical, surgical, pediatric or obstetric care in a hospital.

St. Mary's, with 201 beds, ranks third in size in the Rochester hospital survey. Other hospitals are Strong Memorial (University of Rochester Medical Center), Rochester General, Genesee, Highland Park Avenue, and Brockport's Lakeside Memorial.

Oldest Redemptorist
New Brunswick — (NC) — The oldest English-speaking Redemptorist in Canada, Father Charles McCormick, died here following a long illness.

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