

Waiting For The Baby To Come Is Time For Spiritual Progress

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We've been married almost a year and our baby is well on the way. Lately I've been thinking about some of the things they talk up before marriage. I know our pastor probably explained it all, but neither Joe nor I are very clear about what the sacrament of marriage is supposed to do for us. This sounds awfully selfish—what I mean is, how does it "work" how does it fit into our lives?

Someone has remarked that the only person who can be really productive while just sitting around is a pregnant woman.

Obviously you're doing more than just sitting around, you're trying to think your way through the significant things in your life.

Perhaps one of the rewards of pregnancy—first pregnancy at least—is that it takes you out of circulation for a time and gives you a chance to collect your thoughts, or, as an African Bantu saying has it, "it gives your soul a chance to catch up with your body."



What is the sacrament of marriage supposed to do for you and Joe? I don't feel that this is a silly question at all. What you're really asking is: What graces or spiritual helps does it offer us, and how can we best use them?

As you and Joe are well aware, marriage, like all the sacraments, gives you an increase of sanctifying grace, thus intensifying your union with God and making you more pleasing to Him. It likewise confers special graces enabling you to live up to your high vocation as Christian spouses.

In the words of Pius XI, the sacrament of marriage adds particular graces, dispositions, needs of grace, by elevating and perfecting your natural powers in such a way that you are assisted in knowing intimately in adhering to firmly, in willing effectively, and in successfully putting into practice those things which pertain to the marriage state, its aims and duties.

so long is their union a Sacrament of Christ and the Church."

Only as your married life proceeds through the family cycle with its joys and sorrows, its triumphs and trials, its births and deaths, will you grasp the full significance of those sacramental graces for your happiness and success.

Remember, when Christ united you for life in the sacrament of matrimony, He expected your home to become a new, creative cell in the structure of His Church.

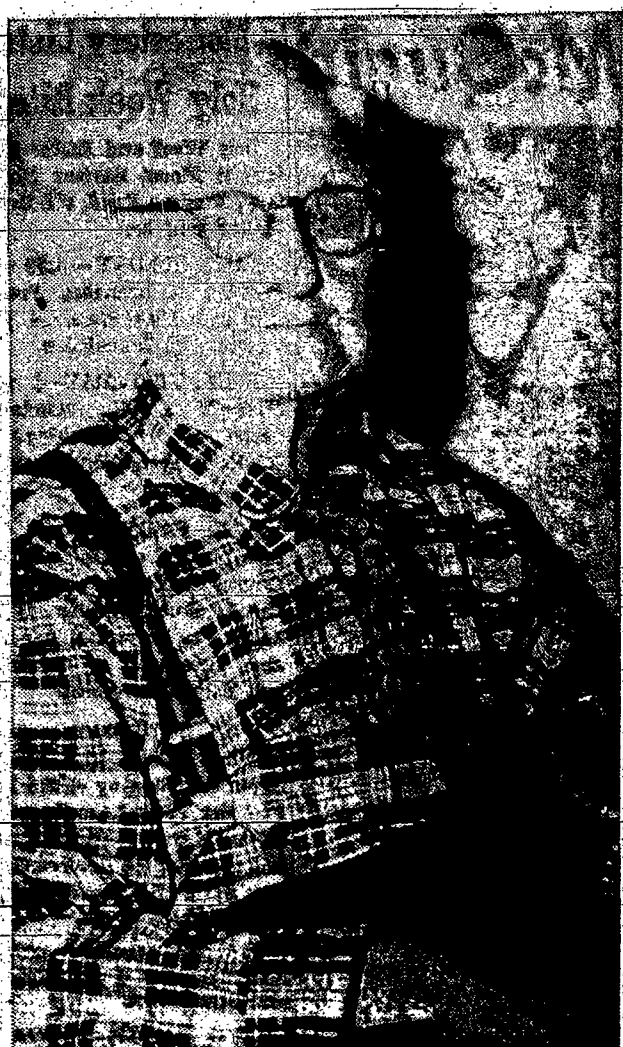
In your lives as partners and parents you are witnesses to Him before the world. Through the home you establish the Church takes root in society, and Christ continues His saving mission in time and in space.

All this becomes possible only if you recognize that you are ministers and instruments of divine grace and love to each other, only if you regard your home as a vital extension of the Church through which Christ sanctifies His members. Thus the sacrament penetrates every facet of your married lives.

Your mutual love and devotion, dedicated to the service of new life, becomes the sign of your love and devotion to Christ and His Church.

Even the expressions of your most human emotions, impulses, and drives, together with the joys and pleasures normally associated with them, receive their meaning and their direction from this sacrament.

In a society surfeited with prosperity, yet strangely restless and insecure, you and Joe can face the future with calm assurance, for your marriage contract is underwritten by God Himself. Think about this often lest the daily routine of trivial involvements dull your inner vision and you starve spiritually in the midst of God's plenty.



Pioneer Courier Reader

MARTIN BOPP SR. of 9 Engler St., a pioneer reader of the Courier-Journal, celebrated his 82nd birthday on March 15. A native of Brockport, Mr. Bopp was married in St. Francis Xavier Church, Rochester, where he is still a parishioner. Mr. Bopp has five children, one of whom is deceased, 15 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Besides reading the Courier-Journal each week from beginning to end, Mr. Bopp is interested in politics, television sports, and admits to being a heavy smoker. He was in the auto painting business for 40 years.

Friars Urge Prayers For Unity Council

Garrison — (RNS) — A national campaign of prayers for the success of the forthcoming Ecumenical Council will be launched here by the Central Office of the Chair of Unity Octave.

During the octave, which is observed, annually by Roman Catholics throughout the world from Jan. 18-25, prayers are offered for religious unity.

THE COUNCIL, at which Christian unity will be discussed, was announced by Pope John XXIII on the final day of the octave, Jan. 25, Feastday of the Conversion of St. Paul.

Pope John, who has shown a special interest in Christian unity since his elevation, also celebrated a special Mass at the Vatican for the intentions of the octave on the first day, Jan. 18, Feastday of the Chair of St. Peter at Rome.

In announcing the prayer campaign, the Very Rev. Augustus F. Delahunt, S.A., general of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, which sponsors the octave, said that the friars "have received a great consolation in the Pope's call for an Ecumenical Council."

"For 50 years the Society of the Atonement has been promoting the Chair of Unity Octave and the apostolate of Christian unity," Father Delahunt said. "Every one who has promoted or observed the octave rejoices in the announcement of the new council. And the success of this council will be signified by the prayers of the faithful for this purpose throughout the year."



CAREER DAY plans for members of the Sodality of St. Francis Xavier Parish were made by, from left, seated, Mary La Monica, a teacher at No. 7 School, a speaker; Ida Tutobene; standing, Joanne DiRose and Joanne Bisano, members of the committee.

Moral From Microphone

St. Louis — (RNS) — Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis, experienced difficulty with the microphone while he was addressing the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

"I guess that's a signal I have said enough," the Roman Catholic prelate said when the microphone went dead for the fourth time.

Later, when the Archbishop was offering a final prayer, the microphone worked perfectly. "Goes to show you we should pray more and talk less," the prelate commented.

Career Dinner Hears Talks On Vocations

To coincide with March as the month of vocations, the St. Francis Xavier Sodality sponsored a "Career Dinner" on March 17.

The dinner had a two-fold purpose — to acquaint teenagers with various vocational interests while enabling them to share an enjoyable evening with their fellow Socialists.

THE EVENING, the first of its kind sponsored by a local Sodality, commenced with dinner, prepared by mothers of the Socialists.

After dinner and an introduction given by Rev. Henry Atwell, editor of the Catholic Courier Journal, four qualified speakers played their role in the night's festivities.

The vocational fields to be elaborated upon included: the religious life, Sister Mary Sharon, the nursing profession, Mrs. Ann Crilly; the teaching career, Miss Mary Lamont; and social work, Miss Marie Waldman of the Catholic Family Center.

Priest Engineers Named Advisers

Syracuse — (NC) — Two young priests here are back on their old jobs.

Fathers Angelo L. Morabito and James J. O'Hanlon worked in the engineering field before they decided to study for the priesthood. Now Bishop Walter A. Foery of Syracuse, has decided to take advantage of their special education and experience.

He has named them to the diocesan building commission. They will assist in approval of plans and award of contracts for all diocesan and parochial building projects.

Both priests were graduated from the Cornell University school of engineering.

Clothing Aids Cuba Needy

New York — (NC) — A total of 210,000 pounds of clothing has been sent to Cuba by the U.S. Catholic Bishops with wide relief agency to aid rehabilitation in that country.

High Schoolers

Don't Run With Mob

Milwaukee — (NC) — A warning against "running with the mob" was given to some 10,000 high school and college students from nine states by Archbishop William E. Cousins of Milwaukee, here.

The prelate offered a Solemn Pontifical Mass which opened the 13th annual Wisconsin Catholic Action convention.

He told the students: "There's not one of us who doesn't resent being pushed around. All of us like to feel a certain freedom of action, but at times it's impossible to keep alive that spirit under proper perspective."

Scandal Of Division

Duty To Work For Unity

Chicago — (NC) — Catholics are obliged to work for the reunion of the separated churches with the Catholic Church "with all their strength in a great spirit of truth and charity," according to a leading French theologian.

Father P. A. Liege, O.P., not only a Catholic but also a member of the separated churches, is the author of the book, "The Mystery of the Reunion of the Churches," published here by Pines Publishers Association.

The priest, states that "God alone knows the hour and the means of the reunion of the separated churches to the Church." But this fact, he continues, does not lessen the obligation of Catholics to work for reunion, "with all their strength in a great spirit of truth and charity, by fighting for the triumph of the unity of the spirit of Christ in His Church."

The French Dominican adds: "And they will gladly recognize every element of positive Christianity in their separated brethren, while pointing out that the Church possesses the plenitude of the Christian values to which they legitimately hold fast. And Catholics will do all this without liberalism but also without the Pharisaism of those who think they have been constituted judges over their brethren, simply because God has deigned to allow His means of the reunion of the truth to dwell in them."

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U. S. Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota, told the students that corruption in politics "does not excuse Christians from an active role in political life."

Other speakers at the sessions, built around the theme of "A Better World Through the Resurrection of the Virgin Mary," included Auxiliary Bishop Roman J. Atkieski of Milwaukee, Father Louis E. Riedel, convention chairman and director of the Sodality Plus XI and the Italian government, Kiraly, a leader of the Freedom Union, and Maj. Gen. Bella Fichters during the 1956 revolution against the communists for their beauty and value.

N.Y. Cardinal's Stamp Exhibit

New York — Cardinal Spellman will sponsor an exhibition of Vatican City postage stamps here from April 6 to 17.

The exhibition will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the issuance of the first Vatican City stamp.

The Vatican began issuing stamps in 1929, following the Lateran Treaty between Pope Pius XI and the Italian government guaranteeing the independence of Vatican City. Its stamps are prized by philatelists for their beauty and value.

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