

My Husband Drinks Too Much, Blames Me For No Affection

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My husband was always very affectionate until around the time after we had our fourth child. Since then he never praises me or uses endearing words; he drinks too much and then says very mean things; he once became very emotionally upset and cried, saying I didn't pay attention to him or appreciate him. That's not true, though I am kept busy managing the babies and the budget (my job). What can I do?



While I was reading your letter, Rose, a whole series of similar cases kept running through my mind. This assumed similarity can be deceptive, however, for I have learned that individual cases always have some unique aspects that must be adequately considered when attempting to offer any worthwhile advice.

Although your letter was rather complete, I feel I would have to know both of you somewhat better before I could suggest a positive plan of action.

Under the circumstances, therefore, the best I can do is to raise a few pertinent questions for your consideration, assuming that your case runs fairly true to form. As I see it, you are a relatively affluent wife, managing your home and babies and handling the budget as a normal part of your daily routine.

You mentioned in your letter that you had to take over the handling of family finances because when your husband insisted on trying to do so, bills weren't paid, he fussed about giving the older children money for school, and drank too much.

Even now, he drinks up quite a lot of his check on Friday night and Saturday before turning the remainder over to you.

The pattern that emerges from this description is that your husband, like many men of his type, is not capable of handling the family finances in a responsible manner, though he feels that he should do this because he probably believes that this is a man's job.

Hence he's bound to feel let down and insecure as head of the family when experience shows he's not up to it.

Some men who find themselves in similar situations manage to protect their self-esteem by giving their wives a weekly allowance with which to run the home. They feel they're still boss because they give the allowance.

I think your mention of the budget is important because it throws light on several points in your letter. You say that when he's been drinking, he accuses you of not paying any attention to him, of failing to appreciate him, of thinking that he's not important on his own.

Although you believe this isn't true, have you stopped to ask what these remarks tell you about his feelings? Isn't it clear that he resents not being head of the family, and is looking for some way to build up his own confidence and self-esteem?

Fitting closely into the total pattern are your remarks that he is not affectionate and no longer uses endearing terms of praise and love. Is it possible that you took this pretty much for granted, gladly receiving his tribute of affection, praise, and love, yet never returning it in kind?

Some women thoughtlessly assume that this is a one-way street, though common sense should tell them that the traffic must run both ways if love is to endure. It may be that your husband stopped showing you affection because your manner of acting led him to believe that he was not needed in this area either.

What should you do? Well,

Rose, if our analysis is roughly correct, it seems to me that you should search for ways to involve him more actively in running family affairs.

Granted that you must manage the budget, perhaps you could go over the bills, items, future plans, and so forth with him each week, thus showing that you want his advice. Try to build him up as head of the family in your children's eyes, and this, in turn, may put some pressure on him to curb his drinking.

Finally, take every opportunity you can to praise him when he does well, and to show him that you need his emotional support and companionship. Although you will probably have to continue running the family pretty much on your own, avoiding giving the impression of being self-sufficient.

This doesn't imply any hypocrisy on your part — you do need him, even as he is.

Princess Meg, State Heads To Visit Pope

Vatican City — (NC) — The visit of England's Queen Mother and Princess Margaret to Pope John XXIII this month will open a series of calls to be made on the Pope by high officials and heads of states within the next few months.

OTHERS SCHEDULED to call are: President Giovanni Gronchi of Italy, King Paul of Greece, President Achmed Sukarno of Indonesia, President Alfredo Stroessner of Paraguay, and President Charles DeGaulle of France.

The dates of the visits have not been published. It is believed here that the King of Greece will meet with Pope John on May 21 and that President DeGaulle will visit here on June 26.

The visit of Queen Mother Mary and Princess Margaret will occur on April 22 and will take the form of a private audience.

All the others, engagements with the heads of states, will be in accordance with solemn protocol.

'Weaker Sex' Strong In Prayer

Vatican City — (RNS) — Women may be the "weaker sex" in the eyes of man; but they are strong before God, Pope John XXIII told some 30,000 pilgrims and visitors at his midweek general audience.

"There are many representatives of the so-called weaker sex present here," the Pope said, "but don't say that too loudly. Otherwise, they will become angry. Actually, they are a strong sex before God because, when others tire, they continue to pray."

Among those at the audience were 30 members of the Detroit Edison Company's Girls Club, and a group of sailors and marines from the U.S. aircraft carrier Intrepid, anchored in Naples.

U. S. Priest Borneo Vicar

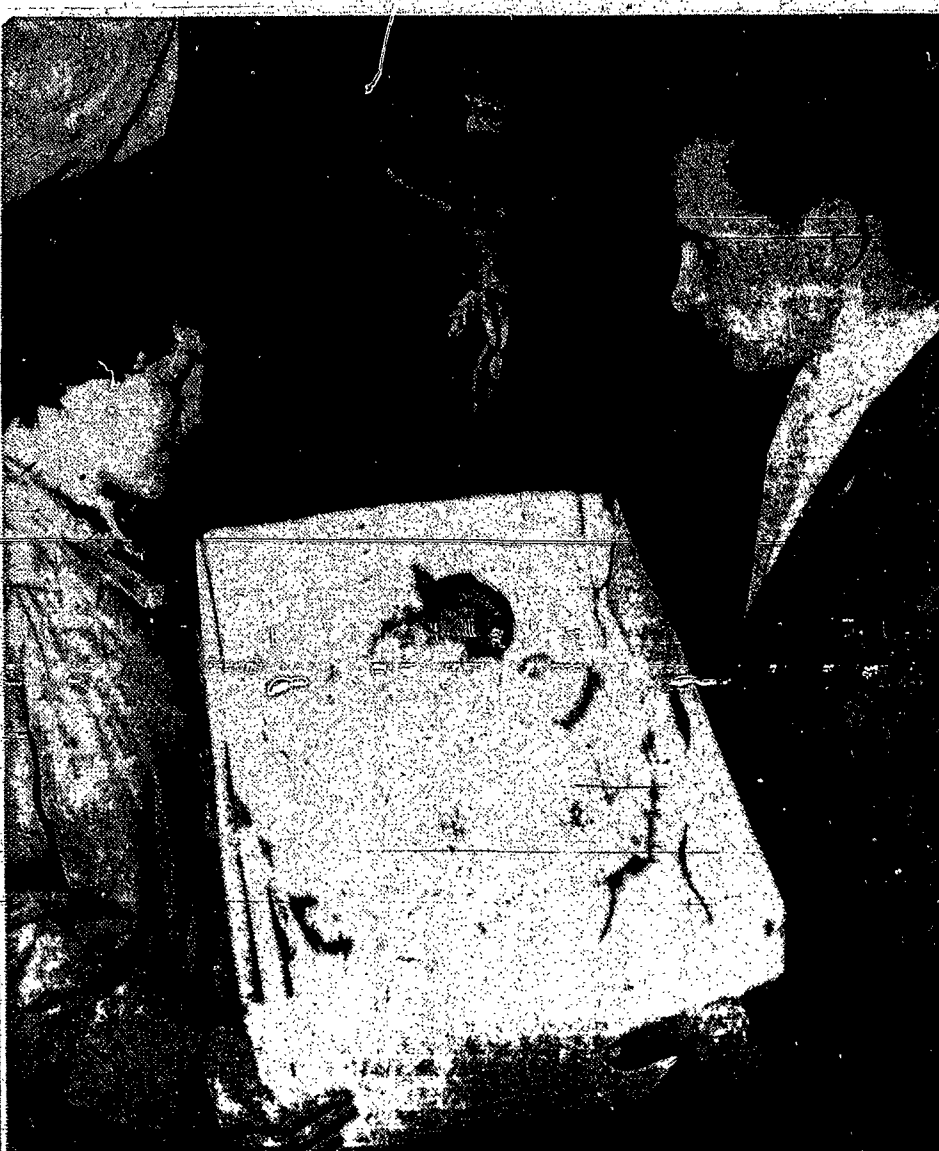
Quebec Park, N.Y. — (RNS) — Father Eugene W. Lynch, S.M.M., of Jackson Heights, N.Y., was named as the first American Montfort Father to serve as the new Indonesian Vicariate of Sintang on the island of Kalimantan (Borneo).



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'Colleen' Alters Plane Flight

New York — (RNS) — Mr. and Mrs. Vlado Tretinjak, a Yugoslav refugee couple, hold their eight-day-old daughter, Mary Patricia, at Our Lady of the Skies Catholic Chapel at New York International Airport. The Tretinjaks' trip was interrupted at Shannon, Ireland, when their plane turned back so Mrs. Tretinjak could be taken to Innis County Hospital there for the birth of her baby. The 6 lb. 4 oz. "colleen" and her parents were brought to the United States under the auspices of Catholic Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference and the U.S. Escapee Program.

Mother Weeps TV Rots Insides Of Youth

St. Paul — (RNS) — A bill prohibiting radio and television from broadcasting programs describing "criminal deeds, violence, bloodshed, lust or crime" won support from five churchmen, two boy scout leaders and a host of angry mothers at a hearing before the Minnesota legislature.

State Rep. Jack M. Peterson, Duluth, said that in the opinion of the attorney general the bill is unconstitutional since blanket prohibition would affect stations from broadcasting programs on a statewide network operations.

One woman, who was so angry she wept, briefly told the legislators that some radio and TV programs "are against God's commandments."

"They're rotting the insides of our youth," declared another.

Laity Urged To Form More Study Groups

Baltimore — (RNS) — Formation of parish discussion clubs separate from or as part of existing Catholic parish organizations was urged here by Co-adjutor Bishop Michael Hyle of Wilmington, Del.

Addressing the 45th annual convention of the Baltimore archdiocesan Holy Name Society, the prelate said these clubs might serve as a stimulant against "Catholic complacency and indifference."

He told more than 1,200 Holy Name men at the meeting that there has been a "tremendous leakage in the Church membership." This has resulted, he said, from the number of Catholics who have been "half-hearted" and "lacking in any feeling of disapproval or sorrow" concerning practices which are "fostered in opposition to the teaching and principles" of Christ.

Blood Donors Indulgence

Saint John, N. B. — (NC) — Bishop Alfred B. Leyerman of Saint John has issued a decree announcing an indulgence of 100 days each time a person donates blood.

The decree points out that the indulgence is for those who in making such a donation are "moved by a spirit of Christian charity and pity for those in distress."

"To give blood 'in imitation of Him who shed His blood that we might be renewed spiritually and saved,'" the Bishop said, "is to rise to the great heights and to sound the profound depths of Christian charity."

Liberia Catholic College Planned

Monrovia, Liberia — (RNS) — President William S. Tubman stated here that Pope John XXIII intends to carry out plans for the establishment of a Roman Catholic university in this Negro republic.

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