

# How Does A Married Daughter Respectfully Escape 'Mom's' Control?

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How does a married woman with a "mom" of a mother assert herself without hurting "mom's" feelings? Of course some daughters by-pass their husbands and run to mother with every problem, but some do try to manage their own affairs and find this "offends mom." I know one mother who complains her "child" is not "close" because daughter dodges prying questions. Another was "furious" when daughter enrolled in a Baby Care course instead of seeking her advice. How should one handle this problem?



You probably realize that you're putting me on the spot, Mildred. Every time I write anything on this question, I receive indignant letters all the way from Alaska to the Panama Canal Zone.

Since there are millions of good mothers, there are millions of good mother-in-laws. But there are exceptions, and as you suggest, a "room" for an in-law can be devastating.

Of course the mother-daughter combination is not the only relationship in which "momism" occurs. Though it probably represents what social scientists call the ideal type. At the same time, marriage is not the only situation that reflects its harmful effects.

Many vocations to the religious life are apparently effectively discouraged by the refusal of parents to allow their daughters to lead a life of their own. In such cases, other reasons are usually given, but these tend to be merely convenient rationalizations.

This problem of "momism" in relation to married daughters stems from several rather obvious sources. In the first place, some mothers misconceive their role as parents.

Now the primary purpose of a parent is to assist children in their development toward maturity, that is, in their gradual assumption of responsibility, self-control, independence, and self-determination. This requires long years of unselfish nurture, affection, instruction, discipline, and guidance. In a very real sense, parents must aim to work themselves out of a job.

The reward for their selfless dedication is not continued control over their children or the satisfaction of manipulating their lives. Parents must recognize and respect the sacred dignity each child possesses as a person, a unique image of God.

Parental authority, therefore, is delegated and temporary. It is given to parents not for their own benefit but to serve the child.

To seek to prolong it unduly, or to use it in a manner that hinders the child's growth toward independence is a serious injustice. Parenthood is a service through which fathers and mothers are privileged to cooperate with God in the development of a mature Christian.

The second source of the problem is a misconception of the meaning of marriage. When sons and daughters marry, their primary interest and loyalty must necessarily be centered on their own marriage. The new family circle they establish must become the major focus of their attention.

It has its own right to pri-

# Post Office Pushes Drive Against Smut

Denver — (NC) — Postmaster General Arthur W. Summerfield said here the Post Office Department's campaign to rid the mails of obscene literature is producing results.

THE NUMBER of cases of alleged violations of anti-obscenity laws turned over to district attorneys has more than doubled in the past 40 days, Mr. Summerfield declared.

The Postmaster General attributed the steep increase to a law enacted last year by Congress which permits distributors of objectionable material to be prosecuted in the place to which it is mailed.

Previously, they could be prosecuted only in the place from which it had been mailed.

Mr. Summerfield said southern California and southern New York State are the principal centers for distribution of pornography. He blamed this situation on "extremely liberal" court interpretations of obscenity in those areas.

# Parents Asked To Fight Smut

New York — (NC) — A letter requesting parents' cooperation with postal officials in ridding the mails of obscene literature was read from the pulpit of all churches in the Archdiocese of New York.

The letter was sent to all parishes by Msgr. Thomas A. Donnellan, Chancellor of the archdiocese. It urged parents to save any objectionable material mailed to their children by pornography distributors and turn it over to their local postmaster, either in person or by mail.

Previously confined to stores and newsstands, a vast amount of this low material, as well as samples soliciting sales of even more objectionable pictures, slides and films are being sent to children under cover of "free class mail."

St. John's Seminary — Miami — (NC) — The congregation of the Mission of St. Vincent de Paul, known as Vincentian Fathers, will staff the new St. John Vianney Minor Seminary now under construction.



# Fiesta Time in New York

New York — (RNS) — Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, reads a prayer before a group of children at the seventh annual San Juan Fiesta at Randall's Island in New York. The fiesta, which attracted some 85,000 spectators, was held for the Spanish-speaking Catholics of the city. It consisted of religious, civic, and cultural festivities.

# N.Y. Priest Named To Goodwill Group

New York — (RNS) — Father George B. Ford, who for many years has been prominently identified with the interreligious goodwill movement in this country, which is active in the humanitarian, has been named to the board of the Roger Williams Straus Memorial Foundation, a junction of Christians and Jews, was announced here by former Governor Thomas E. Dewey, goodwill agencies.

# At New York Fiesta Puerto Ricans Told Cling To Faith

New York — (NC) — Cardinal Spellman called on Spanish-speaking Catholics here to "seal and reaffirm your faith, in order that no one be able to destroy or pluck it out from your soul and from your family."

"To be Catholic is to be cemented to a granite rock of absolute truth, and is to oppose with courage and strength the current of immorality," the Archbishop of New York declared.

Cardinal Spellman spoke at a Mass offered at the start of the seventh annual San Juan Fiesta for Spanish-speaking Catholics sponsored by the New York archdiocese. The fiesta, honoring St. John the Baptist, patron saint of Puerto Rico, was held on Randall's Island here.

Among those attending the religious, civic and cultural celebration was Mayor Felix R. Gonzales de Gaudier of San Juan, Puerto Rico. A highlight of the fiesta was a parade of floats illustrating scenes from the Old and New Testaments.

He called on mothers to "educate religiously your children," and asked fathers to "give the example of a manly religious spirit to their families."

# Chicago Prelate Named Titular Archbishop

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope John XXIII has named Auxiliary Bishop Bernard J. Sheil of Chicago to be Titular Archbishop of Selge.

Archbishop Sheil will continue to serve as Auxiliary to Archbishop Albert G. Meyer, of Chicago.

ARCHBISHOP Sheil, founder of the Catholic Youth Organization in the Archdiocese of Chicago more than a quarter of a century ago, is widely known throughout the United States.

A number of other institutions were also set up in Chicago under the initiative of Bishop Sheil to assist persons of various races and backgrounds in many ways. Bishop Sheil is also noted as a public speaker and has addressed numerous secular gatherings, union conventions, veterans' organizations, legislative hearings and other events.

# Spare The Rod...

New York — (NC) — Twenty-five years as presiding Justice of the Domestic Relations Court in this city has convinced John Warren Hill that the rise in juvenile delinquency coincides with a decline in spanking.

In his annual report Justice Hill reviewed his experiences on the bench and noted that the rate of delinquency "continues to soar."

"We believe," he said, "that the reason for this increase lies largely in the dangerous nonsense which a current school of thought is teaching, telling parents not to punish their children, declaring that discipline curtails and hampers growth and that unbridled self-expression is essential to character development."

# Union Meeting in Cleveland

New York — (NC) — The Association of Catholic Trade Unionists (ACTU) will hold its 13th national conference at the Tudor Arms Hotel, Cleveland, July 4 and 5, national director Frank Andolina announced here.

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