

# Should Husbands And Wives Take Separate Vacations?

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What do you think of separate vacations? My husband's parents insist on taking their married sons (they have no daughters) on vacation just as we used to. Wives aren't forbidden, but they pick a remote and primitive place where it's impossible to take young children. So guess who stays home with whom? My husband hesitates to oppose his father, but I feel we have our own family holidays to build now.

I think you will agree, Irene, that the general question of separate vacations for husbands and wives cannot be answered with a simple "yes" or "no".

Individual family circumstances vary so widely that no single, absolute rule will apply to all cases. For example, there are times when the husband may have an opportunity to go on a hunting or fishing trip with the "boys", or the wife may have the chance to visit distant relatives or friends when her husband is not free to take a vacation.

There are many reasons for up all such occasional opportunities on the assumption that husbands and wives ought to do everything together at all times.

A general principle, however, and making allowances for special occasions or unusual family circumstances, I believe that husbands and wives should plan to spend their vacations together.

There are many reasons for this stand. Through much of the year, modern couples are separated a good deal of the time by the demands of the husband's job. Vacation offers them an opportunity to relax and enjoy themselves together, free from the routine bustle, stress and tension that characterize contemporary living.

Further, when there are children in the family, vacation offers the father an excellent opportunity to get to know them better, and, incidentally, to learn from first hand experience something of the job his wife faces every day of the year in taking care of them and keeping them occupied.

Many modern children seldom see their father when he is wholly relaxed and at his best, so there may remain many aspects of his character that they come to know and appreciate only on vacation. At the same time, vacations spent together as a family are rich with shared experiences and memories that endure through the years, serving to unite and bind the family ever more closely together.

Vacations together have special significance for the modern couple. Owing to increased longevity and changes in the family system, they must be prepared to face a good number of years alone together after their children leave home.

Unless they have learned to play as well as work together, this extended period of the "empty nest" can be dreary indeed. During the busy, hectic years of raising a family, vacations together can strengthen and promote their sense of companionship so that they will be capable of living alone, once the children leave. Unfortunately, some make no preparation for these later years.

Preoccupied with earning a living and raising a family, they grow apart rather than together, with the result that when the last child departs, they face each other in their emptied home almost as strangers.

With these observations in mind, Irene, let's consider your specific problem. Your stand that "we have our own family holidays to build now" is quite correct. You have



formed a new family unit that must now become the principal focus of your interest and energy.

What about your husband's reluctance to offend his father? (Although we must respect the longstanding emotional bonds, sense of gratitude, and reverence that a son owes to his father, we can find an adequate answer to this question in the first chapter in the Bible that tells us about marriage.)

There is a striking verse in the second chapter of Genesis, repeated by Our Lord when He spoke about marriage: "Wherefore a man shall leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall be two in one flesh" (Genesis 2/24). Once a man marries, his primary loyalties and obligations must be

directed to his wife and family.

The clarity and force of the Creator's original statement in Genesis, as well as Our Lord's repetition of it, have peculiar significance. Obviously, the Creator foresaw that the strength of long-established family ties would pose a perennial threat to the stability of a new family unit, and in quite unmistakable terms He warned mankind of the danger.

Through marriage, husband and wife are joined together more closely (they shall be two in one flesh) than parent and child. Hence there can be no doubt about the primacy of their loyalties, affection, and obligation. When their children marry, parents must accept this fact as well as their children.

## New Church Construction Sets Record

Washington (RNS)—Church construction set an all-time record during July, totaling \$8,900,000, the Department of Commerce and Labor reported here.

This was an increase of \$5,000,000 over June and topped July, 1958, by \$10,000,000. It was the largest volume of church construction in a single month in U. S. history.

Total construction for the first seven months of 1959 is now estimated at \$12,000,000, an increase of 10 per cent over the same period of last year.

Construction by non-public schools and colleges, many of which are church-related, totaled \$44,000,000 during July, an increase of \$2,000,000 over June, but \$6,000,000 less than the same month a year ago. Building activity by private schools and colleges is two per cent below the level for the first seven months of last year.

## Eagles Honor N. Y. Cardinal

Toronto (NC)—Cardinal Spellman received the "Ten Commandments Award" on the Ecumenical Order of St. Basil at the organization's 51st international convention here.

The Archbishop of New York was honored for his "leadership in strengthening the moral and spiritual fabric of American life, in providing guidance and direction to the lives of young people, and in combating the global conspiracy of atheistic Kremlin-directed world communism."

## Irish Bell

Dublin (RNS)—A Big Bell which had been used to summon workers on an estate at Rathdowney, County Loughis, to their meals will in the future be used to summon Catholics to Mass in East Africa.

## Not Cricket, You Know Colavito Hits A Boundary

By ROBERT T. STOCK

Cleveland (NC)—English Catholics learned recently that very few members of the crowd at a Cleveland Indians baseball game get excited until Rocky Colavito comes up to try to strike a homer.

This, they discovered, is like a boundary hit, and when Colavito came up with four of them against Baltimore, the feat just about equaled a double century before lunch.

This data came to readers of the Catholic Herald, a national weekly published in London, in a column by Father Bernard Basset, S.J., the English Socially promoter.

Father Basset, a kind, enthusiastic and sharp-witted observer of the American scene, has been spending several months in the U.S. prior to the World Socially Congress. It is to be held August 20 to 22 at Seton Hall University, South Orange, N. J.

He saw his first baseball games when he was here in June to give retreats and make a number of other appearances.

Father Basset wrote later that "baseball, like cricket, has its sudden glorious moments" and reported that in the first game he saw, Colavito scored a grand slam.

"There were men on all the bases," the Jesuit explained, "and he had only one more strike; a homer is like a boundary hit, and he got it; the Cleveland Indians scored four runs at once blow."

This achievement, Father Basset wrote, dismissed the Big Four foreign ministers' conference from the front-page headlines and returned Colavito to hero status.

"And, as Catholics are the same all over the world, everyone tells me that he signs himself before striking and that on the television screen, one can just catch sight of his scapular on a clear day.

"Scapular or no scapular, he is grand to watch."

But until Colavito arrives, Father Basset reported, the audience is only somewhat lethargic than a cricket crowd.

He exposed as a major bluff the notion that baseball is

much faster game than cricket.

"It is nothing of the kind. I watched one game in which only one run was scored in three hours; another when neither side achieved so much as a base hit for an hour-and-a-half. There are few of the hazards which enlighten cricket; fielders wear a glove, and catches are never dropped."

He also pointed out that baseball lacks cricket's therapeutic qualities, being "noisy and restless, with the crunch of peanuts in the background."

## Prelate Quits Portugal, Salazar Tiff Blamed

Oporto (NC)—A Portuguese bishop who has been critical of the authoritarian regime of Premier Antonio Salazar has left this country for "an indeterminate period," it has been confirmed here.

Press reports of the departure of Bishop Antonio Ferreira Gomes of Oporto had led to speculation that he would not return, and perhaps had resigned his See.

DIOCESAN OFFICIALS here said the Bishop has gone abroad for "an indeterminate period, maybe one to three months. He remains Bishop of Oporto."

At the time of the presidential elections a year ago the Bishop sent Premier Salazar a letter criticizing his policies. When President Americo Thomaz came here on a visit recently, Bishop Ferreira Gomes was not present at the official welcome given to the chief of state, although Auxiliary Bishop Florentino de Andrade e Silva attended.

have gradually leaked out, Bishop Ferreira Gomes reportedly warned the Premier that Portugal faces the immediate threat of a violent social upheaval of an anarchic-communist nature.

The Bishop is said to hold that this threat is due to the "autocratic" form of Dr. Salazar's government, alleging that it makes for social injustice. "Riots and latters, hunger and misery" are widespread in this country, according to the prelate.

Hierarchy Meets

Malines, Belgium (RNS)—The annual meeting of the Belgian Roman Catholic hierarchy took place here under the presidency of Joseph Ernest Cardinal VanRoey, Archbishop of

In his letter, parts of which



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