

Teenage Opinion

Going Steady, Social Security

St. Bonaventure (RNS) — "Going steady" among teen-agers should be discouraged unless marriage is probable, a panel of Roman Catholic high school boys and girls agree here.

Steady dating was termed as "a form of social security," however, although it ultimately tends to limit the teen-ager's sphere of activity.

At the annual National Youth Congress of the Third Order of St. Francis, the panelists agreed that "young people going steady tend to withdraw from the adult and the teen-ager world and to lose their perspective."

Even though steady daters live "a good religious life," they cannot assume that it offers them "insurance of immunity against the pressures of proximity," the panel members said.

"It's up to the parents to educate their children on the

glories of the matrimonial state," they said, "and teach them that liberty does not mean license."

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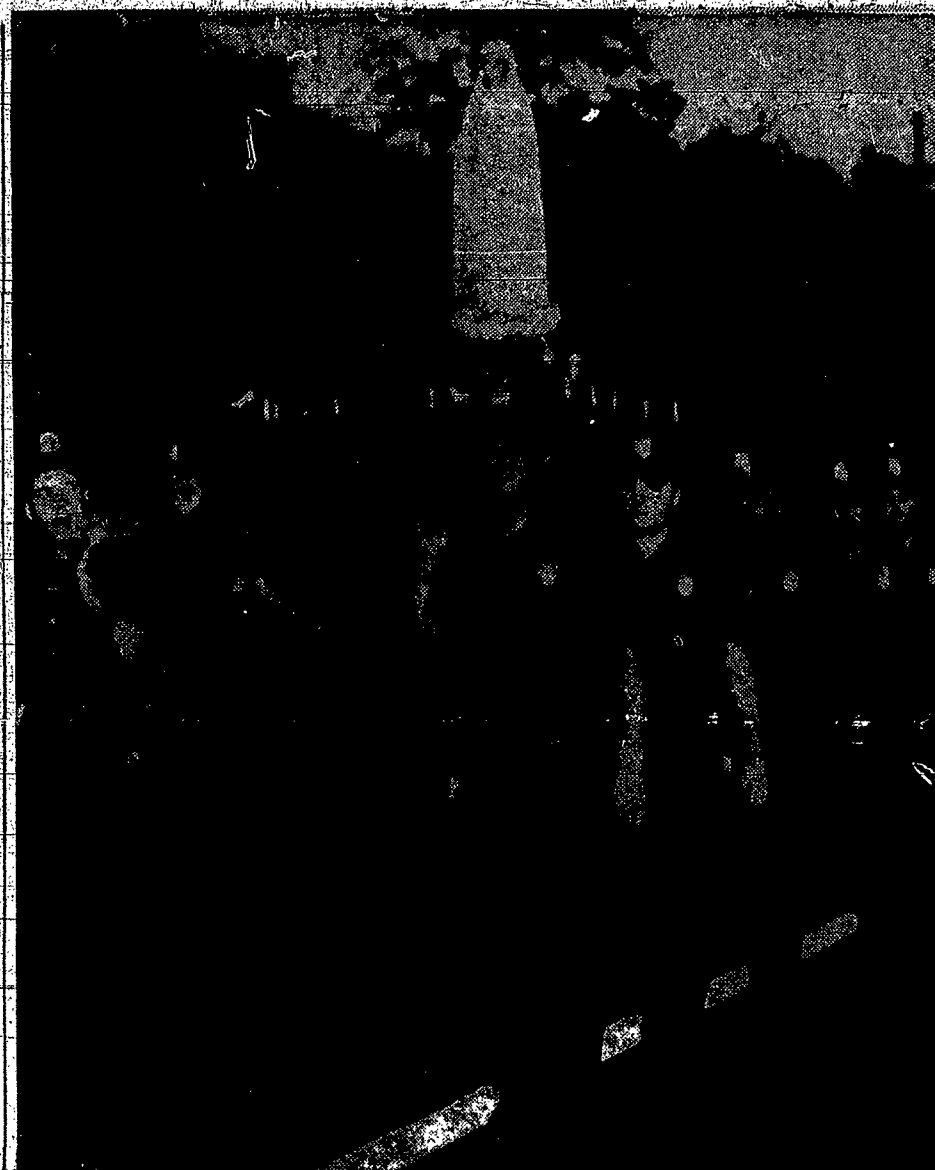
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Brooklyn Police Procession

Brooklyn (RNS) — Members of the Fatima Club of the New York City Police Department carry their statue of Our Lady in a Brooklyn candlelight procession on the day after the Feast of the Assumption. The annual event drew thousands of admiring onlookers.

Faith Holds In Iraq

By MARIS HADAD
(N.C.W.C. News Service)

Beirut, Lebanon — The Catholic Church has been able to carry on its work generally without obstacles since the Iraqi revolution of July, 1958.

But the continued threat of communism is making the small Catholic community of that predominantly Moslem country apprehensive.

Reports from Iraq indicate steady communist activity within the Iraqi republic — notably in the form of pressure on the government of Premier Abdul Karim Qasim.

The Qasim cabinet itself is not believed to be communist. But Mr. Qasim is now paying the penalty for having used communist support to rid himself of the governmental elements which supported the United Arab Republic's President Gamal Abdul Nasser. The communist club has only a gray—not control—but Premier Qasim is having a tough struggle shaking it loose.

Initially, the revolt Mr. Qasim led against the old monarchy a year ago was a source of serious concern to the Christians of Iraq. Forming less than 10 per cent of the total population of six million Iraqis, they still had vivid memories of the massacres under the Turk during World War I and therefore fear any political change.

But the combination of careful planning and good fortune brought the revolution successfully and with relatively little bloodshed, and Iraqi life soon became normal. It became evident that the Qasim regime sought to protect, rather than harm, the country's minority groups.

Within a month after the revolution, the new Chaldean Rite Catholic church in Baghdad, the capital, was the scene of a novena which attracted an overflow congregation. Last Christmas the curfew was suspended to allow for the celebration of midnight Mass.

While the revolution was nationalistic in character, it was not fanatically so and the schools conducted by foreign Catholic religious congregations have had a comparatively normal year.

One instance of this is the fact that Baghdad College, attended by American Jesuits, had 77 students in its graduating class this June — the largest since it founded a generation ago.

Dr. Saleh Khalis, director of technical affairs of the Ministry of Education, came in person to present the diplomas.

The Baghdad College situation is paralleled at the other foreign-run Catholic schools. These include Al Hikma University, also conducted by American Jesuits; three primary and one secondary school conducted by the Sisters of the Presentation of Tours, France; a primary school run by French Carmelite nuns; and a secondary school run by French Dominicans.

The French Dominicans also have seminaries to train priests for the Chaldean and Syrian Rites.

all of the Protestant missionaries in the village districts had been expelled from the country.

On the admission of the Protestant missionaries themselves, this was perhaps more a move of political expediency than of religious discrimination. Veteran observers see in the Qasim regime's moves against missionaries a nervousness about foreigners which would naturally affect any new government in such a tenuous situation.

There is not only the fear of spies, but anxiety that harm might befall foreign nationals in outlying districts difficult to police, thus embarrassing the new government.

Even so, observers here could not see such justification for the ouster of the American missionaries of the Dutch Reformed Church from their hospital in Amara. Their property was confiscated at the same time, and the indemnity that was offered was generally held to be inadequate.

Foreign Catholics forced to leave the country include the Little Brothers of Jesus and the Little Sisters — both founded on the inspiration of Father Charles de Foucauld, the French priest who lived a life of Christian witness among the Moslems of North Africa.

The Catholics of Iraq do not consider the ouster of the Little Brothers and Little Sisters as extraordinary. Members of both communities lived in the villages and wore lay dress for the most part — which in itself laid them open to suspicion among the predominantly Moslem community even in normal times.

So the fact that they shared the fate of the Protestant missionaries in the villages came as no surprise.

Meanwhile, government distrust of foreign missionaries has also affected the Protestant community in Baghdad. Mrs. Harold Schupp, headmistress of the American School for Girls in Baghdad, was expelled early this year. Ousted with her were her husband and two other Protestant missionaries.

testant missionaries — the Revs. Raymond Weiss and Harold Davenport.

The pattern is not yet clear as to who might be ousted and why. But in general, the Catholic Church is in a far better position than the Protestants in Iraq. The hierarchy is made up of a Chaldean Rite Patriarch with his seven archbishops and bishops in Iraq, two Syrian Rite archbishops, and an Armenian Rite archbishop — all of either Iraqi or at least Middle Eastern origin.

Only Latin Rite Archbishop Amard Blanquet du Chastel of Baghdad — who is also Apostolic Delegate to Iraq — is from Europe, being a French Carmelite.

This gives an indigenous character to the Church in Iraq and makes it less susceptible to the charge sometimes leveled against American Protestants — that of being "agents" of the "imperialistic West."

Thus at present, the Church is relatively secure. But if Premier Qasim were to lose his struggle against the Reds, this security would fade quickly.

At the beginning of July it was reported that Mr. Qasim had beat down a Red maneuver to seize control of the farmers and peasants who form the bulk of Iraq's six and a half million people. The Premier has been winning out against the Reds fairly consistently. He might be able to defeat them decisively.

Bleriot Kin Now Burma Nun

Bhamo (NC) — The family name of Louis Bleriot, pioneer aviator whose historic flight across the English Channel was commemorated by golden jubilee celebrations this year, is represented here.

Mother Ste. Claire d'Assise Bleriot, a nun in Nantua, France, is a niece of the famous aviator. She is superior of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, who conduct an orphanage here. Ousted with her were her husband and two other Protestant missionaries.

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St. Joseph Now At Work On Auto Assembly Line

Luton, England (NC) — A large mosaic showing St. Joseph in modern working dress at the assembly line of an automobile plant has been built over the front entrance of a new church at Luton, a center of the British automobile industry.

The man responsible for changing St. Joseph's trade in a modern well-known way for its automobiles, as it formerly was for its hats, is Father Arthur Brewer, pastor of the new church dedicated to St. Joseph the Worker.

"Had St. Joseph lived here in modern times, it is quite likely he would have been a car worker," he said.

The mosaic shows the saint, wrench in hand, working on an engine.

Luton is the home of Vauxhall cars, the English version of a Pontiac.

KC Hopes Pope Will Visit U.S.

St. Louis (RNS) — The Knights of Columbus adopted a resolution here expressing the hope that Pope John XXIII, "may find it possible to grace with his august presence" the dedication of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., Nov. 20.

Passed by delegates to the 77th annual meeting of the Roman Catholic fraternal organization's Supreme Council, the resolution declared "it is thrilling to contemplate even the possibility of a visit to America by His Holiness on this occasion of homage to Our Lady."

"The amiability and benevolence of our Holy Father," it said, "and his dedication to the achievement of peace and justice command the respect and affection of all men of goodwill."

Located on the campus of Catholic University of America, the shrine is being constructed at an estimated cost of about \$12,000,000. It will be the largest Catholic church in this country, seating 4,000 persons.

The K of C has financed the shrine's 316-foot bell tower, costing \$1,000,000, as a token of thanksgiving for its 15th anniversary in 1957. The tower is the second tallest in the world, only nine feet shorter than the great campanile of St. Mark's Church in Venice, Italy.

Forums Draw 5,000 Converts

St. Louis (NC) — More than 5,000 converts have come into the Church as a result of a series of annual information forums instituted in the St. Louis archdiocese five years ago, Archbishop Joseph E. Rife disclosed here.

Christ Of Mines Shrine Blessed

Silverton, Colo. (NC) — A shrine, built to ask God's blessing to resolve the economic crisis once facing this town, was dedicated on Anvil Mountain overlooking the town.

The idea of the shrine came from the local pastor, Father Joseph H. Halloran. He said that he firmly believed that if the town would build the shrine as a symbol of faith, God would ease the town's economic problems.

Within a few months after construction of the shrine, a large operation purchased several large properties and announced plans to start working the mines. This summer saw many mining activity in this area that there has been in many years.

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