

Should Parents Give Reasons For Orders To Children?

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My husband and I disagree about the way to teach children respect for their parents. He believes that parents have absolute authority, with no obligation to give reasons for their orders or to speak politely. I agree that children should obey, but I feel we should give our reasons and listen to their objections if they just aren't nagging. Also, haven't they the right to be treated politely?



You're definitely on the right track, Madge. Of course one can always carry a sound principle too far. There's little to be gained by wearying quite young children with a constant recital of reasons for your rules and orders.

They're not listening and there's no use in flatterer yourself that they are. Young children expect parents to lay down limits and rules, and though they will test them if they are normal, healthy youngsters, they never question your right to make them. As you suggest, also, there are times when the objections of older children need not be taken seriously. Often their protests are something of a game, they have nothing to lose, and they might gain some concessions if you're in the right mood.

All normal children try this at one time or another, and they repeat the same pattern in school, as every experienced teacher knows full well.

If your husband is really serious, Madge, he is laboring under two serious misconceptions. In the first place, he misunderstands the nature of parental authority. Parental authority is given to parents by God for the good of the child.

It is consequently limited by the changing needs of the child. As long as, and to the extent that the child is immature, that is, lacks the knowledge and experience needed to assume (or) responsibility for himself, parental authority is required to guide and direct him.

Perhaps parental authority can best be characterized as pedagogical or teaching authority. This is to say, it is needed because the child is still a minor, and it is to be used to train him to become a self-governing adult. Its aim, like that of all teaching, is to stimulate, guide and develop the subject's growing powers so that the teacher eventually becomes unnecessary. This involves patience and time.

Hence, the reason that it is proper for you to present your reasons for giving an order as soon as your children are mature enough to understand them is not only that they may find obedience easier but that they might gradually learn to guide their actions on the basis of reason rather than impulse.

At the same time it is fitting to listen to their sincere objections not only because parental authority should not be arbitrary, but since they are developing toward maturity, they are quite capable of presenting valid reasons for their views. How will they learn to think for themselves if their opinions are considered worthless?

Of course they may be short-sighted or fail to take into account all the pertinent principles and facts at times, but this is precisely the occasion for parents to teach them how to reach sound judgments. Becoming mature is a process, not an event.

By patiently teaching your growing youngsters to regulate their actions in terms of pertinent Christian standards, and by asking them questions, you are helping them acquire the sense of personal responsibility and reasoning capacity needed for maturity.

Your husband appears to be laboring under a further misconception. He fears that being polite and considerate toward the children would be "to put them on a par with ourselves and result in disrespect."

Although fairly common among some groups, this is really an odd bit of reasoning. They argue that respect is based on fear rather than love, as if it were unnatural for children to respect their parents and had to be coerced into it.

This is patently false and suggests a serious insecurity on the father's part. What is he afraid of — open rebellion — or even eventual threat to his self-centered dictatorship?

More important, the child is a person and therefore worthy of profound respect. Parents hold children not as possessions but in trust from God. Parenthood is a service geared to prepare children for life. How can they learn politeness and consideration toward others if they never experience such treatment from their parents? Would it be surprising if

later we found them polite or considerate only to persons of whom they were afraid?

Yes, Madge, you're on the right track, and don't give up the fight or you'll produce another generation just like your husband!

At Georgetown Classroom

Prelates To Break Language Barrier

By RUSSELL SHAW
Washington (NC) — A meeting which may have momentous results for the Church in the Americas will be held November 2 to 4 in one of the world's most unusual classrooms.

On these days, 20 prelates from the United States, Latin America and Canada, as well as the Apostolic Delegates to the U.S. and Canada and a high Vatican official, will meet to study ways of linking the Church in Latin America.

In anticipation of the linguistic problems of a meeting where participants speak five separate native tongues among them, the site selected was a language classroom with translating facilities modeled on those of the United Nations.

The Inter-American Episcopal Conference, as the unprecedented gathering has been named, will be held in the Multilingual Room of the Georgetown University Institute of Languages and Linguistics.

Officials of the Jesuit-operated school point out that the Multilingual Room is the first, and probably the only classroom of its kind in the world.

The room was designed by Dr. Leon E. Dostert, former director of the institute and an internationally recognized expert on linguistic education.

It was Dr. Dostert who planned the translating facilities used after World War II at the trials of Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg, Germany. Later he was called on to help design the simultaneous translation system in use at the United Nations.

When Georgetown established its Institute of Languages and Linguistics in 1949 with Dr. Dostert as its director, he brought his experience to bear on the creation of a Multilingual Room to be used in a course on simultaneous translation — the translating method employed at the UN.

The result was an unusual classroom for an unusual course. The Multilingual Room is the heart of a course which has trained some of the country's top translators, according to Roger A. Heller, assistant to the institute's present director, Dr. Salvatore Castiglione.

Graduates of the course get around, Mr. Heller declared. He said a recent photograph from Moscow showed one of them, a U. S. government translator, side-by-side with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev during one of Mr. K's visits to the U.S. exhibition there.

The Multilingual Room has facilities for the simultaneous

Truman To Give Youth Week Talk

Kansas City — (RNS) — Former President Harry S. Truman will address the Fifth Biennial Convention of the National Council of Catholic Youth here Nov. 12-15, it was announced by Msgr. Joseph E. Schieder of Washington, D.C., director of the Youth Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. Mr. Truman also will moderate a panel discussion at the Truman Library at Independence, Mo.

translation of five languages. Its principal feature is a horse-shoe-shaped table, each seat of which is equipped with a head-telephone set and a selector dial.

The dial has six positions — one for the voice of the speaker of the moment, and five for the various languages into which his words are being translated.

The translators are located in a group of glass-enclosed booths at one end of the room. As they translate the words of the speaker, their voices are "broadcast" to the headphones around the room.

Mr. Heller emphasized that the Multilingual Room is "a classroom first of all." The Inter-American Episcopal Conference will be only the third outside meeting to be held there.

The other two, he said, were a recent international conference on the coffee industry and

Father O'Rourke 30 Years Pastor

The venerable pastor of Mother of Sorrows Church will mark his thirtieth year in his Greece parish on Oct. 31.

Father Daniel B. O'Rourke began his pastorate in 1929 when there were 60 families (and \$13 in the collection) in what is today one of the largest parishes of the Diocese although it was twice divided in the past three years.

"Before the building boom started in 1945, I knew all my parishioners by name and all about their families too," he said. "I've tried to keep up with all the newcomers and go door to door to meet them but these days they move in faster than I can get around."

But Father O'Rourke still amazes the more-than-a-thousand families in his parish by greeting them by name when

they come to Mass or call at the rectory.

The 70 year old priest still catechizes in the parochial school three to four times a week, has convert instructions almost every evening and performs all baptisms every Sunday.

He estimates he has baptized at least 2,000 during his thirty years atop Paddy Hill, the second parish to be established in the Rochester Diocese (only the old Cathedral, now St. Patrick's Church, has records dating back further than Mother of Sorrows.)

He counts as the greatest joys of his priesthood the opening of the new \$310,000 parochial school and the just completed \$195,000 convent.

His concern for the religious training of children is strikingly demonstrated in the picture with this article. Father O'Rourke instructed the grandparents and later the mother of the lad at the left, Edward Emmerick.

He also counts as parishioners many graduates of Nazareth Academy where he served as chaplain and instructor in religion from 1935 to 1939 in addition to his pastoral duties.

He has also instructed as many as 35 adults for entrance into the Church in a single year.

HE DESCRIBED one episode which led to a conversion — typical of his career as a priest. He went to the church one Sunday afternoon and there in the back pew found a young couple in sincere prayer. He waited 'til they finished, asked their names and learned they were soon to be married, though the young lady was not a Catholic.

He encouraged her to ask God's guidance in the matter of religion and blessed them for their wedding day.

A few months later they were back to call on him and the young bride wanted to be instructed in the faith. The two built their home in "Father O'Rourke's parish" and their children now attend the parish school.

Father O'Rourke's jubilee will be marked by a General Communion of all parishioners this Sunday, Oct. 25, and a solemn Mass at 11 a.m.

Auxiliary Bishop Casey will celebrate Mass Thursday morning, Oct. 29, to be attended by priest friends of the jubilarian and Bishop Kearney will speak at the luncheon to follow.

Christ the King Feast Sunday

Catholics of the world will observe Sunday, Oct. 25, as the feast of Christ the King.

All churches will schedule special rites during which the Act of Consecration of the human race to the Sacred Heart of our Lord will be made before the Blessed Sacrament exposed for Benediction.

Parish bulletins should be consulted for exact time.

All Catholics are urged to receive Holy Communion and personally renew their religious allegiance to the divine Savior.

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