

Making Marriage Click

Tempers Flare

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"I have a 14-year-old son who is as mean as he can be. The other day another boy got him angry — he had a baseball bat in his hand and I have me, he tried to use it. I thought he would kill his own friend. No amount of reasoning seems any use. Can I do anything to stop this?" Dolores.

Loss of temper in children is one of the most frequent problems parents experience. It is early in life a brutal, hostile, manifestation against people and things.

There are two main periods of life when temper is especially violent and frequent: at about age two and again during adolescence.

The first occurs when a baby becomes a child, the second when the child is becoming a young adult. Both times there is a struggle for new independence. This temper is as much due to his own weaknesses as to the authority which seems to oppose him.

Temper is a result of some dissatisfaction. It is as simple and as complex as that. To a tiny baby it is dissatisfaction with clothes, hunger, bodily posture, temperature. But no malice exists.

When he is about two and walking and talking, these temper tantrums are especially common. He is becoming a person now and able to make his demands more clearly known.

He is insisting on his right to explore an expanding world and to make a few decisions for himself. The "go's" and the "stop's" are not easily combined at this age. "Go" is the dominant drive in his life. Anger and resistance are natural reactions to "stop" sign.

They reappear when he is four or five years old. This is not a "back track" — new resistance stems from a hundred new interests and abilities that he has suddenly grown into. During the adolescence period he again sees a new world coming up. He is becoming more independent but then more is demanded of him.

He is sure only of his rights. As soon as he started to walk he wanted to do things by himself and that desire has never stopped growing. At that early age when a child resisted a parent two courses were open. One was to hold fast. You dared not systematically concede. There were certain points that you held to.

On these you knew you could not compromise if your child was to obey God and to live in society. A certain job had to be done in a firm and friendly way. You knew that the trial-and-error ways of a child are slow and fatiguing to an adult. You were patient but strong.

Then the other way was to respect his resistance, to see the situation from his eyes, to try to appreciate and support his effort to "do it myself." You gave in when you could. You tried to prevent the temper spells from occurring. You saw to it that he did not meet too many frustrations in early life. You made sure he had enough sleep and food, weekly allowances, and children his own age to play with.

You did not try to stifle his temper because you knew a sulken, downtrodden child, though quiet, is in some ways more of a problem than one with temper spells. A person without a temper is said not to be worth two pennies. A person with a temper and

no control is not worth half a penny.

We suggest three things, Dolores. You and your husband as well as the Church and the school must help your son to see his spirit of independence as something good and useful if controlled. It is not primarily a fault to conquer.

Your teenager must conceive discipline, not as an end in itself, but as a preparation, for fuller freedom.

Do not yourself give way to outbursts of anger. Your boy will surely get over this habit of talking back because he will eventually copy his parents' example of courtesy.

He will learn to control his temper because he wants to be liked by his companions. And don't forget, boys his own age have ways of taming him. He no doubt already has learned: "When you lose your temper, count to ten—if the other fellow is bigger than you — keep counting."

Often a "mean" child is an isolated child who cannot endure it. To help him, parents must reestablish bridges between him and others — re-integrate him with the community. A "mean" child often has heroic possibilities of kindness and gentleness to the weak and needy. Your challenge now may be to give him that opportunity.

Faithful Urged to Receive Communion At Funerals

Stuebenville — (NC) — The Bishop of Steubenville has issued an experimental directive governing funeral ceremonies including provisions encouraging reception of Holy Communion and prohibiting sermons at most services for the laity.

Bishop John King Musslo said his directive will be valid for six months at the end of which he will seek the judgment of diocesan pastors on additions or deletions.

The order is the result of a plan recommended by the diocesan liturgical commission

Public Ignores Refugees Plight

Geneva — (NC) — Too many people are ignorant of the reasons for the World Refugee Year and public opinion in general is not yet sufficiently aware of refugee problems, a spokesman for the Holy See told a United Nations body here.

The assertion was made by Father Henri de Riedmatten, O.E., at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Program of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

THE HOLY SEE is one of the 25 members composing the Executive Committee, with Father de Riedmatten and Msgr. Giovanni Ferrero, Counselor of the Apostolic Nunciature to Switzerland, as the Holy See's representatives at the meeting here.

Carmelites To Be Missionaries

New York — (RNS) — A departure ceremony was held at Our Lady of the Scapular church here for the first two American Carmelites to go to Africa.

The Very Rev. Donald M. O'Callaghan, O. Carm., Provincial of the Carmelite Province of Saint Elias with headquarters in New York, presided at the ceremonies for Father Paul Feeley, O. Carm., of New York and Father Charles Haggerty, O. Carm., of Boston.

The two missionaries will work in the diocese of Umtali in Southern Rhodesia.

Father de Riedmatten told the committee that the idea for an international refugee year was first broached in public on September 22, 1957, at the third International Catholic Migration Congress, at Assisi.

At that time, he said, Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, executive director of Catholic Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference, referred to the International Geophysical Year and asked: "Would it be too fanciful an idea to suggest an International Migration Year . . . to focus attention of people around the world on the urgency of solving many problems?"

The Dominican priest recalled that on the eve of the opening of the World Refugee Year last June, Pope John XXIII made a special radio appeal to the world asking all Catholics to participate wholeheartedly in the work of the year. He said that response to the papal appeal has been generous, and that Catholics in all countries are cooperating in national programs.



'That's All She Asked For'

Dubuque — (RNS) — Working on a "do-it-yourself" lie-detector device to be used in instructing high school and college students of psychology is Sister Mary John Catherine, psychology teacher at Clarke College, Dubuque, Ia. The National Science Foundation gave the nun a \$300 grant to finance her research. Said a spokesman for the foundation, whose grants usually run into four- or five figures: "That's all she asked for."

Catholics Warned About Red Bid For Votes

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Melkite Rite Archbishop George Hakim of Haifa has warned Israel's estimated 20,000 Eastern Rite Catholics against voting for Communist candidates in the national and local elections Nov. 3.

He said that Catholics who do so incur excommunication under a Vatican decree issued during the pontificate of the late Pope Pius XII.

The archbishop's warning came after Communist propagandists had spread reports that

Pope John XXIII had abrogated the Vatican ban.

The last kneset, or parliament, included among its 120 members four Christian Arabs (two Latin Rite Catholics and two Protestants), one Greek Orthodox, one Eastern Rite Catholic, two Moslems and two Druses.

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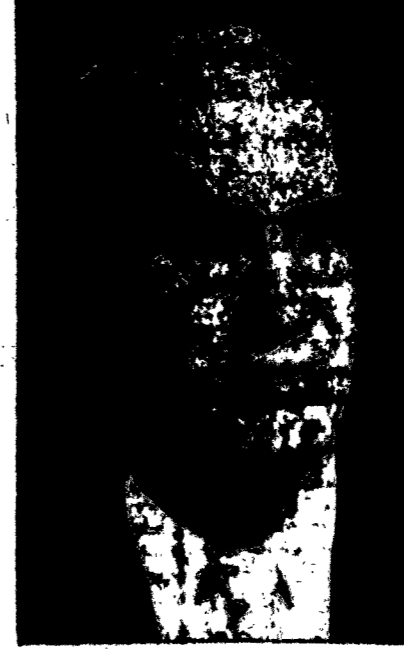
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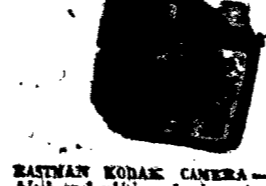


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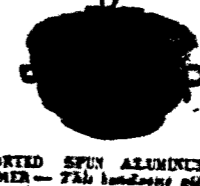
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