

**Benedictine Biologist:**

**Science Study Bolsters Faith**

St. Louis — (NC) — Catholics with a reasonable interest in intellectual matters should outgrow their dread of the theory of evolution, a priest-biologist declared.

Father Eugene Dehner, O.S.B., biology department director at St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kan., spoke at a symposium on organic evolution at Fontbonne College here.

"Study the natural sciences," he told students. "They will widen your understanding of yourself, humble you in relation to God and cause you to stand in awe of the living creation."

Father Dehner, who has a doctorate of philosophy in biology from Cornell University, asserted: "Thanks to Charles Darwin and the impetus he gave to the evolutionary hypothesis, Biblical exegetes — those theologians who specialize in interpretation of the Scriptures — have been led during the past century to re-evaluate the first chapter of the book of Genesis, the story of creation."

"Some wonderful material has become available in the past decade on the interpretation of Genesis."

"We must remember that the Holy Scriptures were written to teach certain essential religious truths, and that the Bible is not a book of science," he said. "What the sacred writer means"

**Loyola Plans  
Vast Expansion**

Chicago — (NC) — Loyola University here has disclosed plans for a \$2 million dollar expansion program to be realized during the next 40 years.

The Jesuit institution announced the plan will include development of three existing educational centers and creation of a new one.

**Is Adoption Best Solution  
To Unwed Mother's Problem?**

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
St. Louis University

Our fourteen year old daughter (single) is expecting a baby in two months. There will be no marriage. After the baby is born it will be adopted by our married daughter. Is there anything you might advise or suggest that might help to rehabilitate our daughter? A broken-hearted Mother and Dad.

Before taking up your request, I feel an obligation in order concerning the arrangements you have made for dealing with the situation.

It seems to me that your plan to have the baby adopted by your married daughter is shortsighted and very ill-advised.

I fully recognize your sincere desire to take good care of the child, but have you chosen the best way to achieve this? A little long range, realistic thinking will indicate that you are making a mistake.

Let's look at the facts in the case. You discover your young daughter is pregnant and marriage is out of the question. Naturally your feelings are hurt. You are disappointed, humiliated, angered, frustrated, and perhaps, even a little guilty about past carelessness and neglect.

Your daughter is frightened and will do anything you say. So you hold a family



council. The child is your own "flesh and blood" and you must provide for it. Your married daughter volunteers to take the baby.

It will properly remain in the family and not be "abandoned" for adoption. Hence that part of your problem is settled. You're not happy, but your conscience is clear.

Is this really a sensible solution? Consider some of the problems it will necessarily involve. If the young mother eventually marries, as she probably will, can she have her baby back? When the child starts to grow up, are you going to tell him that Aunt So-and-So is really his mother, or will you wait until he finds it out for himself?

How can the young mother readjust to life when she will be constantly reminded of her inability to mother her child, and its continued presence in the family circle serves as an enduring sign of her past indiscretion and failure? How will she define her relationships to her child?

No matter how you look at it, your proposed solution is bound to generate suffering and trouble.

What should you do? Why not contact Catholic Charities and have the child adopted through a legitimate adoption agency? Be convinced that this is not "abandoning" the child as would have been the case in former times. Today there are hundreds of wonderful couples who for one reason or another have not been blessed with children and are eager to adopt some.

The agency will carefully select one of these couples, and you can be assured that the child will receive all the love and care that parents can give. This solution has none of the serious drawbacks of the one you propose, while it will save both mother and child from much future sorrow.

How can you help the young mother? First, you must help her understand that

her real offense against God is not in being pregnant or in having a baby but in violating His laws regulating chastity. This distinction seems lost on the modern mind. Parents and young people alike become disturbed about offenses against chastity only if pregnancies result.

Your daughter must understand that the focus of her sorrow and repentance must be her violation of God's law, not her resultant pregnancy. In carrying her child and giving it birth, she is performing a good act, pleasing to God, though by its very nature necessarily involving serious personal and social consequences that must be faced realistically.

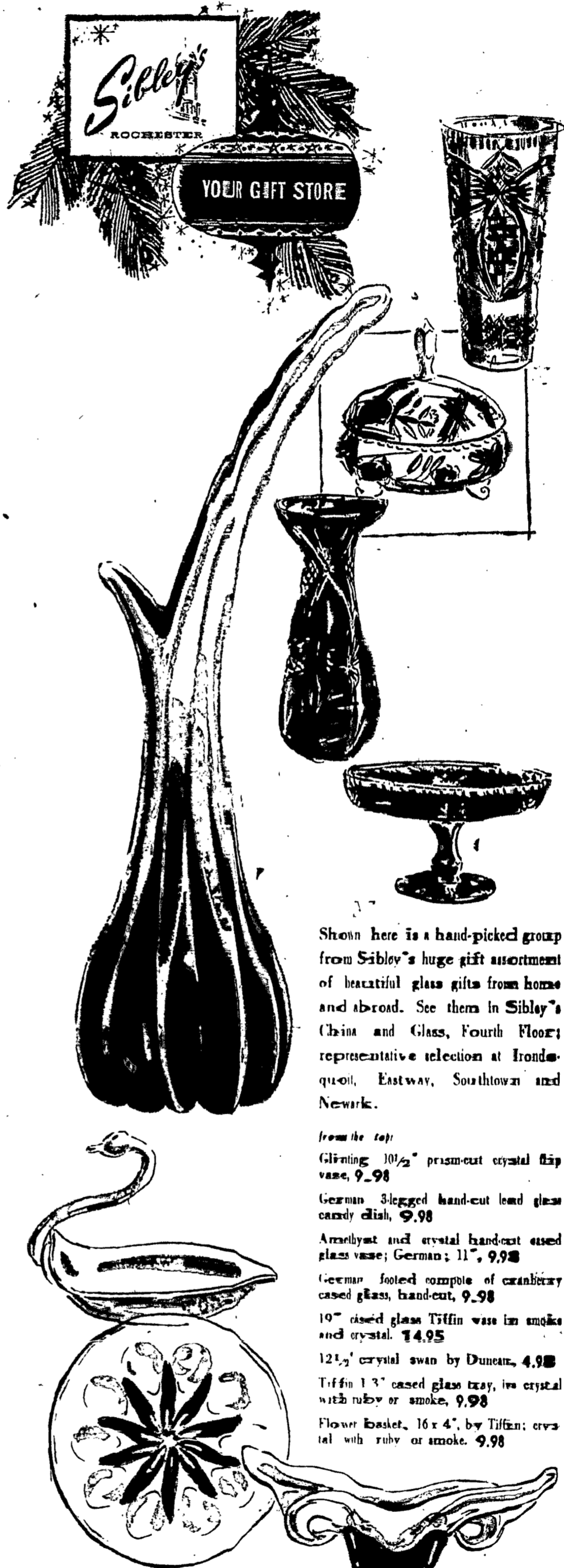
Once your daughter has the correct moral view of what has happened, she will complete her education and training. Help her realize that her whole life lies before her, rich in promise for success and happiness provided she is willing to make the effort to prepare herself adequately. She may need considerable emotional support in the beginning since her self-confidence and self-assurance are bound to have suffered from her experience.

Let her know that you stand behind her and have confidence that she will succeed. Above all, don't play the martyr's role as if you have suffered unjustly. Perhaps you have, but chances are that considering her age, you have played your part in her misfortune.

Why mince words — as long as American parents continue to promote or tolerate the current practice of frequent, unsupervised and uncontrolled dating among their relatively untrained, undisciplined and immature youngsters, we must be prepared to face an increasing rate of premarital pregnancy.

**FINE GLASS ...**

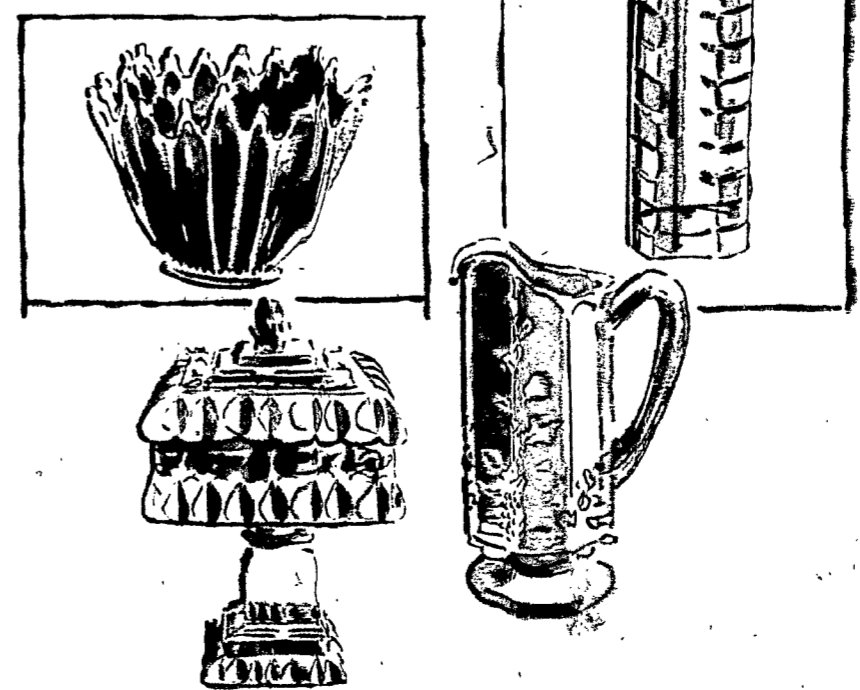
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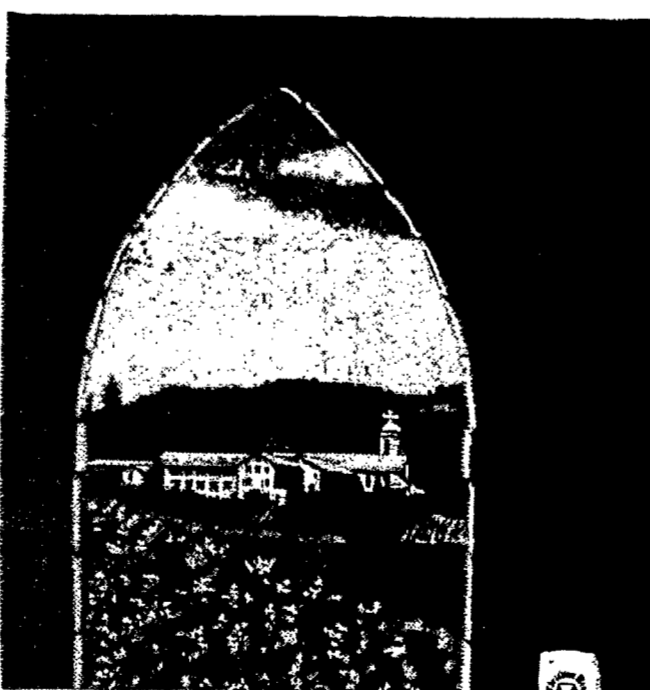
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