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Peace On Earth, An Elusive Quest

The Christmas message of "peace on earth" seems to be this year little else than a truce even between those who call themselves disciples of the Prince of Peace.

Added to the centuries-old divisions of Christendom, there were other new wounds opened the past few months by the birth control and potential Catholic candidate for president controversies.

THE CHAMPIONS FOR PEACE in 1959, historians will record, are not churchmen but the two men at the summit of their vastly different worlds-President Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchey who made his claim to fame by his disarmament proposal at the United Nations.

The President in his audience with Pope John at the Vatican stressed he based his quest for peace on spiritual values. The Soviet Premier also spoke of 'spiritual" goals in his printed statement given visitors to the Russian exhibit this summer in New York City.

There are, of course, many who question the Kremlin leader's use of the word "spiritual" but unless the world's multitudes and its leaders sincerely subscribe to such a goal all other attempts to achieve peace are illusory.

There are, unfortunately, many indications to make one believe the present peace-between nations, between religions, between races - is nothing but an armed truce, a stalemate in a balance of power.

We may compare current events to those long since familiar in the Christmas story because human nature, fallen, redeemed and fallen again, still remains so much the same as twenty centuries ago.

Shepherds then were told by angels to seek their Saviour by a "sign" that He was an Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

After this strange message, the shepherds must have wondered if they really heard a voice like they had never heard before. They were once more in darkness, alone with their flocks but convinced they had indeed been given a most extraordinary message.

They acted on their firm conviction. They went to Bethlehem and found the Saviour and, as Scripture says, they understood.

This same Saviour has given those who call themselves Christians a "sign" to find Him in this twentieth century, a strange sign which only a few are able to recognize:

A Negro in search of a job or a home in your neighborhood, a Jewish family who want to join a club, a thief behind bars, a drunk on the street asking for a quarter, millions starved and dirty in India and Africa -but these people, it is said, aren't like Christ. He wasn't a Negro, or drunk, or starved, or a Jew . . . well, not exactly, that is!

But from out of the stillness comes the "sign"the opportunity to find Christ: "As long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me ... I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; naked and you covered me; sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:40, 34-36)



Red Square in Moscow, the Vatican of Communism.

Inside View



(The writer of the following report is mamaging editor of the Catholic Review, Baltimore archdiocesan weeksy, who has completed a 22-day fact-finding tour of the Soviet Union and other European countries.)

Moscow - (NC) - This is a city of gloom anddoom

If there is a "spirit of Camp David" floating around Nikita Khrushchev's "peace" headquarters at the Kremlin, it is not apparent anywhere else in Mos-

I spent nine days in the Soviet capital and came away with one definite impression: There's an awful lot of phoney reporting going on.

Many Western visitors come away unnecessarily overawed by surface impressions. Hence, it is frequently heard that the Russians are doing marvels and we had all better watch out on the economic front. However, I avoided official guides. I saw Moscow on foot.

Maybe I came away a little fatigued, but at least I formed impressions based on what I actually saw and heard.

Husband And Wife Must Understand One Another's Emotional Trials

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

How can a wife get he husband to realize that she also is a person with needs? My husband brings his frustrations and problems to me, but when I mention my emo tional or physical trials, he dismisses them lightly. Since I can't confide in him, these problems build up inside and when I break down emotional ly, he can't see why I'm un ble to hold myself together. Now I find myself growing increasingly passive and in different toward him.

The situation you describe is found in a good many marriages, Florence, though frequently it is the husband who feels that his wile pays little attention to his prob lems. Thoughtlessness, selfishness, and immature selfcenteredness certainly play their part in creating this situation

Nevertheless, I feel that what is most often involved is lack of communication. As you remark, "I have not mentioned my attitude to him."

Why not? Well, it's difficult to talk about such highly personal needs. Besides, it's not like confessing a weakness and asking for help. The very nature of the need is such that married people feel their partners ought to recognize it spontaneously.

In the same way, on shouldn't have to ask for a manifestation of affection or love. To do so, seems to deprive the gift of its real mean. ing and makes it seem arti-ficial.

Lack of real communication between husband and wife is Khrushchev's lead. In fact, one of the strangest and in every vodka toast had this many ways one of the most puzzling traits some marriages Their knowledge of life in display. Couples who have been married for years tell the U.S. was pathetic and they used all the shop-worn you they just can't "talk" to each other. Of course they enphrases of communist, propagage in routine conversation ganda. When I mentioned that td, get in the way, or appear - there are amazing excep-I own my own house, they a obstatles. tions' - but somehow, they

have never been able to dis-Such persons never seem to cuss or disclose to each other realize that others are pertheir intimate thoughts, feelions like themselves. Their ings, weaknesses, desires, world is centered on their aspirations, and needs. own concerns, so it never oc-

average American worker is curs to them that their part-Sometimes this lack of commuch worse off than his Rusners may have needs distinct munication extends to only from their own. certain areas such as religion or sex. Often, however, their

I made it plain that they inner worlds are completely are the victims of vicious propaganda, which hinders closed to each other, so that they never know what their rather than helps world peace I admitted we have partner really feels and thinks. our poor and underprivileged

but told them that we are In such cases it is not unactively engaged in elevating e our people to a better standard of living. usual, after some critical siluation has exposed these in-



motive when others show careless drivers, they don't even notice the signs. Their kindness. partmers' changing moods,

Finally, because marriage elogizent silences, acts of involves masculine and fem thoughtfullness, and so on, inine persomalities, with all pass unrecognized and unintheir native and acquired dif torpreted, for they lack awareferences communication canness and sensitivity to all but not be taken for granted from the most obvious clues. If you the beginning. All too often, wish to communicate with marriage partners cease to such persons, you must literstudy or to continue trying to ally spell it oul. learn more about the rich and Some are so self-concerned subtle distinctiveness of each

other once they enter marthat they really don't notice other people except as objects riage. or projections of themselves. Hence their communication Hence they really aren't innever proceeds beyond the terested in what their partrelatively strallow stage of ners may think or feel. Atcourtship and the honeymsoon. tention is focused primarily on their own thoughts and feel-How can you get your husings, and others enter the picband to pay some attention to only to the extent that your needs? Well, Florence, they may be used. manipulat-

you might try giving him a dose of his own medicine just for a brief lime. This may prepare the ground for a readstic discussion of your mutual needis. As a mash, s husband may find it difficult to understand that his wafe's problems are highly significant to her though they may seem small in themselves. Husbands and wives live in Some regard others as persomewhat different worlds much of the time.

tons, but they tend to project the ir own feelings and It requires considerable efthoughts into others, thus misinterpreting the signs that fort to learn equal appreciation of the problems which they see. For example, a liar arise in each. I think your uspects others of not telling the truth: a selfish person husband needs a little help in tends to look for an ulterior this regard.

The Saviour is still found where He is least expected to be; He is served best in the most depressed, the outcast, the poorest of His brethren.

Like the shepherds, we cannot hope to find the goal of our quest until we humble ourselves before the manifest will of God. The lesson of Christmas 1959 is perhaps best summarized in St. John's words. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

His own Christians have a somewhat sad record this year as divisions have clouded the Saviour's prayer "that they may be one" and we have surrendered to statesmen the task which is ours to bring "peace onearth.'

Actually, this realization of our failure and our weakness is our best assurance of ultimate achievement. It is to those who are humble in their admission of nothingness that God stoops to give His greatest graces.

SERMONETTE

LIFE !

by the Rev. Richard MacIden, O.C.D.

Today, with so many married couples not wanting to have children, the big problem is not dying, (that's easy)). The big problem is to get yourself born. A lot of kids just didn't make it.

But we did. We were lucky. And as long as we have managed to get down to the earth, let's stay awhile. Let's protect our lives, and the lives of other people.

Some eggheads don't think life is very important (other people's that is). They are

worried about the earth becoming too crowded. They are called "Malthusians" because they are followers of the theories of Malthus, a man who 'reasoned that, since the earth did not increase, and people did, there was a problem. The only solution: You can't make the earth farger, but you can get rid of surplus people.

Actually, the earth will never he overcrowded Population is unequally distributed, true, but this isn't nature's fault nor God's, It's

man's fault. Our Eastern Seaboard is crowded. You-can stand on the top of the Empire State Building and beneath the reach of your vision lives 10% of all the people in the country. Which leave the wide open spaces of the west still awaiting development ... and people.

Another factor which disturbs our Malthusian friends is the astronomical advances of medical science. Diseases which formerly destroyed life have been rendered powerless. Someday cancer will be conquered. But Malthusians need not worry. As long as we have madmen behind the wheels of automobiles, dead pedestrians will litter our streets. Dead, too, will be the madmen at the wheels of their cars. Further, we do manage to come up with a war now and then. Let's not worry about there being too many people on the earth. Let's work to protect the lives we have.

Preserving life is not only an obligation. It is a basic instinct. Everybody wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die. Yet, dust is a must As soon as we are born we begin to die But there is little sense in rushing things. Either for ourselves or for others So the next time you drive, drive carefully, because the life you save may be some pretty girl's. And we need them, too.

one an expert on the mecca of world communism. However, it is sufficient time to learn a great amount about the joys and sorrows of the Muscovites. how they live and where they are going. It is a depressing picture.

> I arrived in Moscow on a Saturday evening The airport serving the city is no farther away than those of our own big centers in the United States. The airport is certainly a busy place, full of the most modern commercial jet plangs as well as the more conventional types.

I had a dismal welcome for a weary traveler. It was terribly cold - something like ten below. The airport may have had a heating system, but it obviously wasn't in working order The place was dimly lit and the furniture elihood and well-being. was sparse.

ings.

the city.

My first view of Russian low, the people waited papropie was in the general tiently. waiting room. They were all huddled up in long overcoats spent trying to find a place and fur hats, and many wore to attend Mass. There was high boots. They looked frightfully uncomfortable, none at the only Catholic waiting for their flights to church in Moscow, St. Louis of France The priest in be called. The majority sat, charge, Father Vitold Broniton wooden benches in the main hall. looking as indifski, a Polish priest from Vilferent as their cold surround-

All accommodation in Mossow has to be booked and paid for in advance at the official Soviet travel agency. Intourist. You pay in US. dollar. When you arrive in Moscow, the rate of exchange is 10 rubles.

In any case, by all international money standards, the ruble is overrated at the expense of the dollar.

Although I had my official Intourist voucher, the agency's representative at the airport said he knew nothing that about it. He told the same tale to an impressario from New York who was supposed to be an official guest of the The one redeeming feature Soviet Ministry of Culture. In the end, Intourist managed

to get us a car - a 1949 Pon-- for the journey into and those in attendance were Although I had paid for first class accommodations, I

arrived at my hotel to find it had only a very small room available. The bathroom was far down the corridor and the plumbing was antiquated. The heating, too, left a lot to be desired The next morning I managed to protest loud enough to be able to get a larger room with bath.

My hotel, the Nationale, looks out on Red Square, where the towering Kremlin and wished that the Ameri-

turn of the high bureaucracy

can people would follow Mr.

rather plaintive leitmotif.

showed obvious doubt.

sian counterpart.

They said they knew that

many Americans have houses

but that they are the rich

ones. They said also that the

which directs the lives of What is more, I amphasized each and every Soviet citizen. that many of our so-called poor and underprivileged live My first view of Red much better than most Soviet Square, on Sunday morning. citizens They refused to bewas quite revealing. There heve that the average U.S. was a four-deep queue stretchworker has a car Anyhow, ing almost all round the they said, the Soviets are Kremlin. The people were busily engaged in producing waiting, so I found, to enter cars which will be available the mausoleum that houses to all. However, when I the bodies of the Red pro-

phets, Lenin and Stalin. familles own a car, I drew a blansk. This pilgrimage is a "must" Soviet citizens visiting The students pointed with Moscow However, there pride to Soviet space efforts seems to be nothing sponand said that America is so tancous about it. It's all part far behind that it cannot posof the official sight-seeing sibly match Soviet prowess itinerary drawn up for the in this field. I said that Amerpeople: Who would dare to ica is devoted to more than leave a tourist group and space missiles. Much of our ignore the official Red scientific effort goes into the "shrine"? Certainly not a field of human welfare, I told them. After all, I said, under Russian, who depends upon the Communist party for his

Even through it was ten be-This drew more protests about the coddling of the rich at the expense of the poor. My Sunday morning was Soviet propaganda has rearhed them in large measure. They genuinely believed that a few rich Americans are oppressing the majority of our people.

na. was away sick and the people turned up only to sing hymns and say prayers. I eventually was able to find the address of Assumptionist Father Louis Dion of Worcester. Mass., chaplain US to American Catholics in the Soviet capital. His apartment exposed the American fraud? chapel, housed some 20 people for the 12:30 Mass. The first real contact Thad of the proletariat." with Russians was at dinner in the Nationale dining room. It is supposed to be one of

gloom and doom. This is my the finest eating places in honest Moscow. It isn't too bad by where I went there were American standards, except glum or indifferent faces. Put the food is always it down to the weather. If bathed in grease. More imyou like. But I got the important, the tea is frightful pression it was the system. and the coffee unbearable.

of the restaurant is its fivethat the people are regimentpiece orchestra which played ed to such a degree that nothing but American tunes, nothing can be done or said including jazz. Russian citiwithout some sort of communist party approval. zens can use the restaurant

What a different picture nearly always young people. Moscow presented in reality A group of young Russians to the picture painted by the architects of the recent Rusat one table invited me over. Several of them spoke Engsian Exhibition in New York. lish. They were mostly stu-The exhibit portraved a land dents who can afford to eat of smiles and plenty. It gave at the Nationale about once a the impression of a Soviet month. They told me they came mostly to listen and

land of healthy sunshine and great scientific strides in the interest of its peoples. Neither dance to the band, which is the weather nor the people noted for playing "capitalist" music. They spoke about the seemed aware of th propadesire for peace in the world ganda. It was a depressing experience.

ner worlds, to hear one of the partners exclaim, "I mever knew she felt this way!" of "Why didn't he tell me that this is what he thought?" And the answer is always the

same, "I tried to, but you never seemed interested." The type of communication I'm talking about involves

much more than conversation. It includes all the varied, subasked how many of their tle ways - the gesture, look, tone of voice, mood, unspoken word, considerate action and so forth - by means of which we reveal our imner thoughts and feelings. In

marriage communication proceeds along all these lanes, provided the couple learn to interpret the signs. Evidently some never do. Their failure may stem from several sources. Some never

learn the language. Like some the American system, human welfare is paramount. 'Angel

Guides

Granny When I spoke about housing, they said what I told Dublin - (RNS)-AFranthem couldn't be so. They ciscan priest proved an angel used the usual communist in disguise when a 61-yearline about the house shown old Persian grandmother at the American exhibition in found herself lost at Sharinon Moscow. They said that it is Airport, one of the world's not available to the average busiest aerial crossroads. citizen. And why? Well, Mrs. Asli Amir from Teherhadn't Mr. Khushchev himself an was on her way to join her daughter in Chicago, but All in all, it was a remarkable boarded the wrong plane at London and Yound herself in demonstration of indoctrination under "the dictatorship Shannon. She became distract-

ed when she discovered she I spoke about a city of had to leave the aircraft and that nobody at the airport -could understand her languimpression. Everyage. She refused even to est. Eventually a TWA official recalled that Father Tarcisius

Hand, O.F.M., one of the Franciscan priests in nearby Lim-The gloom lies in the fact erick City, knew how to speak Persian. Mrs. Amir was taken to the Franciscan friary, where Father Hand explained

violates his nature simultancously violates his person. to her that her daughter had been advised of her dilemma and would be waiting for her when she arrived in another plane.

Father Hand learned that the reason for Mrs. Amir's "hunger-strike" was that she could eat only boiled mutton, salads and fruit. Her "lost" feeling disappeared when Mrs. Amir went back to the airport

Malcing Marriage Click

No Fringe Affair

By MSGR. INVING A. DEBLANC (Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)

"My sudents in this state college, even Catholic students, ask me why the Church it to excited over birth conttol. For the life of me, I mysell cannot see why all the fuss." Doctor M.

From our present headlines, Doctor M., I am sure many would agree with you that it does seem to Catholic leaders that the essential character of our times is not stomic energy or world peace, or radar, or television, or communism, but birth control.

The emphasis against artificial "birth control" by the Catholic Church must indeed seem strange to many who studying world-shaking issues.

The Calbolic Church may annear here to have an unbalanced interest in the defense of a point which seems so minor - that of protecting the instegrity of the function of the matital act. But in this matter the Catholic Church is actually taking a vital stand to prosted man himself. for only if man's nature is re. man through reason. spected is man himself re-

spiked. Our Stand on birth control and minitural Taw has more farsticking effects than your sindents realize. It affects economics, politics, the status

Man is composed of a na-

fure and person and whatever

Femt.

of worman, the nature of love, the education of youth, the handscapped child, health, eu-

genics, peace, war, Don Juan-Ism, Just, prostlution, homo- Friday, December 25, 1959 Sounding and so on.

MOST REV.

JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D., Premident.

The two cannot be separated. There is more involved here than a matter of gadgetry or of pills or of inventions. No simple birth control pill can change the nature of the man Change the nature of the man published every Fride by the Rosches-all it sherroot is his prob- ter Catholic Press Association.

MAIN OFFICE - 33 Scio - DAker 6210, Bothester I. N. In 1956, the Holy Father, in AUBURN OFFICE - 41 Cornt Ave. Auburn 8-3510

discussing fertility and steril-ELMIRA OFFICE -- 112 Really Bids. to wait for another plane. That their right to resolve Entered as wood claus mattering in the She smiled for the first time when she sat down to a speci-ally prepared meal of her fav-orite dishes. The first time of the second clause of th

practical applications toman," he said, "it is impossible not to take into account the repercussions which the proposed methods will have on the person and his destiny."

Material things are intended by God to assist man achieve his destiny. He must "subdue the earth." The plitting of the atom is not against natural law. The atom is just a thing, it has no being of it self, man needs only to subdue it. The use, however, of contraceptive birth control is a different matter, for here a person and a human act are

involved.

The first Faw of man is to be faithful to himself to his authentic human vocation, and this is based on natural Law. The battle for morality is won or lost on this very issue of natural law That is how important birth control is. Natural law is an impulsion in human nature towards its true end It is the elernal will of God made known to

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