Wife Must Take Over If Husband Forfeits Authority By His Drinking

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Can a heavy drinker, some most of the time, expect his wife not to make decisions for the family? My husband spends his spare time drinking at a tavern and comes home mean. The children are afraid of him. He says all he is required to do is to support us, yet he also insists he's head of the home and resents my making needed decisions. He quits drinking during Lent and then it's Heaven. Afterwards, its the same story — seventeen years of it!

It's easy to give a direct answer to your question, Monica. Every family must have a head, and if the selfish, irresponsible boy that you married isn't willing to fulfill his normal role, you obviously must make the decisions. Some men never grow up except physically.

They keep demanding their rights but are too immature to face their obligations.

A man becomes head of the home by acting as one. Some men seem to think that headship of the family is some type of hereditary title, handed down from father to son like ancient kingship.

As your husband says, he's head of the home, right or wrong, and no one should cover up for him.

Yes, Monica, the answer to your question is simple. What is not so easy to explain is why a considerable number of men, who profess to be Catholics, have developed such erroneous views of their roles as husbands, and fathers. Of course they are selfish, irresponsible, and immature as individuals, but their basic problem stems from other sources.

They seem to have grown up in a group that confined the husband's obligation to that of being breadwinner, and defined his rights as head of the family in a quite arbitrary manner. As your husband puts it, "all he's required to do is to support you," and, "right or wrong, he's head of the family."

I think we have to admit that this misconception is fairly common among some groups though there is hope that the younger generation will develop a more adequate view. No doubt this false concept of the man's role in marriage and the family has persisted so long because it has been considered Catholic, yet it represents a serious perversion of Catholic doctrine.

The Church teaches that the family, like every other society, requires someone in authority. Because the husband's job as breadwinner normally places him in the best position to fulfill this function, he is the normal head of the family.

Hence, although husband and wife are absolutely equal as persons and enjoy equal rights in all that pertains to the marriage contract, they have different roles in the management of the family because as sexually complementary partners they have different functions to perform in achieving the primary purpose of marriage, which is the procreation and education of children.

It follows that the husband's headship is defined in terms of the common good of the family unit, so that his authority stems from and is limited by his obligation to work for the good of the family. It is not a privilege to be used for his own interests, nor can it ever legitimately extend beyond the purpose for which it was designed by God. Hence, in exercising authority, the husband gives himself to the family according to the qualities with which the Creator has endowed him as a man.

Dom Beauduin Dies
Pioneer Liturgist, Unity Apostle

Chevetogne, Belgium — (NC) — Father Lambert Beauduin, O.S.B., a top figure in both the Catholic liturgical revival and the search for Christian reunion, died here at the age of 87.

He died (Jan. 11) at the Benedictine monastery he founded to help pave the way for the reunion of the Russian Orthodox and other separated Eastern Churches with the Catholic Church.

A key figure in the movement to restore to the people their active part in the Mass, Father Beauduin was a close collaborator of the famous Cardinal Mercier, Primate of Belgium from 1906 until his death in 1926.

He also participated, at the Cardinal's request, in the "Malines Conversations," the discussions between Catholic and Anglican theologians, at which Cardinal Mercier presided.

FATHER BEAUDUIN was born in 1873 and served as a diocesan priest in Liege for eight years before joining the Benedictines. In 1909, as a monk of Mont Cesar Abbey, he made proposals at a Catholic conference in Malines that have been labeled the "decisive turning point" for the movement to renew the worship of the Church. His program won the approval of Cardinal Mercier.

It included translation of the Roman Missal into the vernacular so that it could become the main devotional book of the faithful, promotion of Gregorian chant, and recognition of the liturgy as having a teaching value of its own.

Although paralyzed and confined to a wheel chair, Father Beauduin was able to attend a meeting last July marking the 50th anniversary of the Malines conference that sparked the liturgical movement. Domenico Cardinal Tardini, Vatican Secretary of State, sent a letter lauding the priest on behalf of Pope John XXIII.

The unity monastery at Chevetogne has its origins in the 1924 appeal made by Pius XI to the Benedictines to assign monks to study the problem of reunion. Located originally at Amay, it was moved here in 1939 when the original quarters became too small. It now has monks of eight nationalities, about evenly divided between Latin and Byzantine Rites.

It has both a Western church and a Russian-style one for the daily celebration of the respective liturgies in Latin, Slavonic and Greek. It publishes a monthly review devoted to Eastern theology, liturgy and history, and sponsors periodic conferences between Catholics, Orthodox and Protestant theologians.

$25 Million School Program

Brooklyn — (RNS) — A $25,500,000 parochial school building program, to include five new high schools in Kings and Queens Counties, was announced by Roman Catholic Bishop Bryan J. McEntegart of Brooklyn.

The schools, two of which will be ready by September, 1961, will accommodate 10,000 students, one-third more than the present enrollment in the diocese's nine high schools.

Also included in the plans is a project to convert the Knights of Columbus Club in Brooklyn into a home for the aged, which will be known as the Madonna Residence.

Bishop Neumann Centennial

Philadelphia — (RNS) — This stained-glass window, part of a series of eight at the Neumann Exhibit in Philadelphia, depicts Venerable Bishop John N. Neumann in conference with parish representatives in 1852 — the year in which he established the framework for this country's first Catholic school system.

New Church Building Tops Total

Washington — (RNS) — Church construction set a new all-time record of $935,000,000 in 1959, the Census Bureau reported here.

This was an increase of 5 per cent over the previous record of $863,000,000 set in 1958, the bureau said in its monthly report on construction activity.

Despite the steel strike, which slowed down church construction, as it did other types of building activity, some $81,000,000 worth of new construction was put in place by churches in December, compared with $78,000,000 in the same month of 1958.

There was scarcely any seasonal decline in church construction, renewed activity made possible by the end of the strike almost overcoming the normal decline due to bad weather in the northern states.

Construction was estimated at $84,000,000 in October, $83,000,000 in November and $81,000,000 in December.

Meanwhile, construction by non-public schools and colleges showed a contra-seasonal upswing in December, amounting to $48,000,000, compared with $46,000,000 in November and $45,000,000 in October.

Total construction by the non-public educational institutions, many of which are church-related, was $532,000,000 in 1959, a drop of 7 per cent from the $574,000,000 in new buildings undertaken in 1958.

Private hospitals and institutions, most of which are church-related, put $49,000,000 worth of new construction in place during December, a gain of $1,000,000 over the October-November level. Total construction by these institutions was estimated at $568,000,000 in 1959, compared with $600,000,000 in 1958, a drop of 5 per cent.

Prison Initiates Family Worship On Sundays

Green Bay, Wis.—(RNS)—Family worship within prison walls has been inaugurated at the Wisconsin State Reformatory here. Officials term it "most successful."

The Reformatory has a present inmate population of 1,000 young men.

Under the plan, families of inmates are invited to attend weekly Protestant or Catholic services conducted by Reformatory chaplains. Inmates may have visitors once monthly.

"The worship plan is working out exceedingly well as a morale builder and rehabilitation factor," he said.

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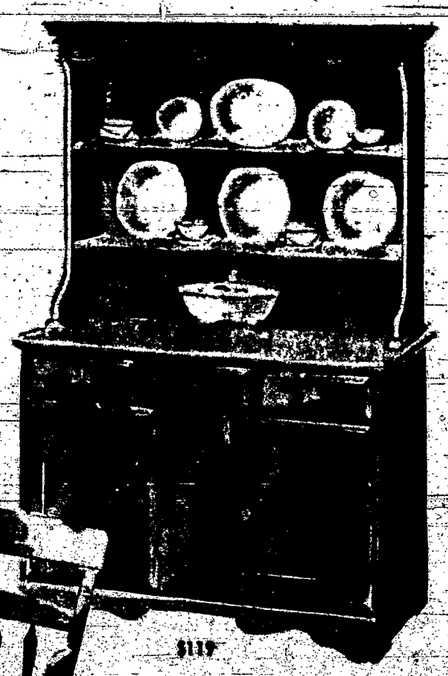

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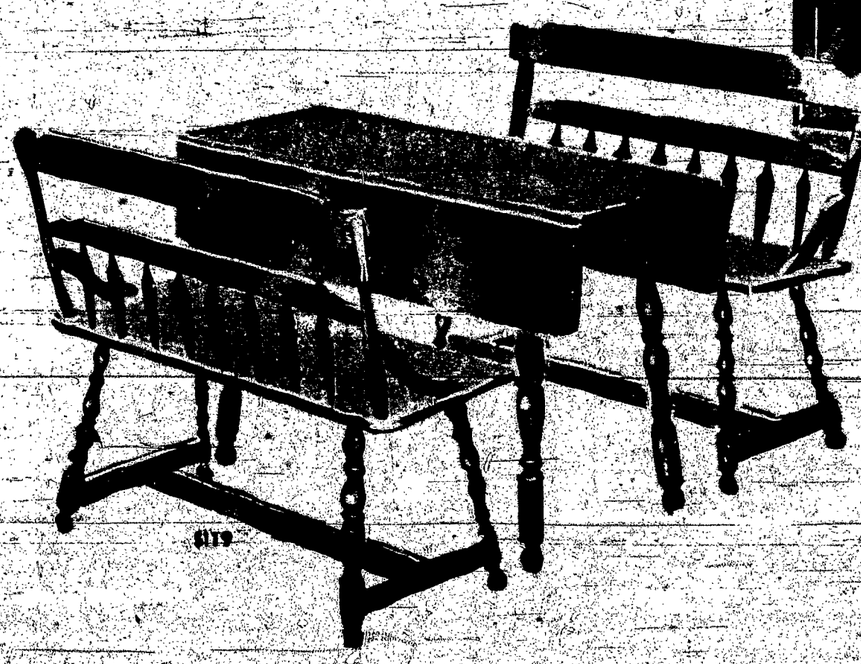

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