

I'm Told Smart People Plan Families. Rest Of Us Lack Good Sense

By FATHER THOMAS

If this letter sounds confused and ramble, it's because I am completely confused. I used to think that children came from God, but now I read in some Catholic periodicals that this isn't the case. Smart people plan their families, the rest of us aren't. Smart people have good sense, and the bibles just connect. Don't these bibles see that they are really one of our greatest consolations? That children are God's will?

I don't know what articles you've been reading, Betty, but I rather suspect that you either read them too hastily or you have some misconceptions about divine providence. Obviously, the Creator is specially involved in every conception, since only He can create an immortal soul.

God is also specially concerned with every pregnancy, since it involves a person, one of His children, capable of receiving baptism and the gift of supernatural life.

But this does not mean that human choice and decision play no part in the conception of a child. God creates a soul and is deeply concerned about its future destiny even when conception takes place outside of marriage, yet He condemns the human decision that led to conditions that require His cooperation.

In our society boys and girls are aware of sexual drives and become biologically capable of reproduction at relatively early ages, but this does not signify that Divine Providence intends them to enter marriage and start having babies at this time. In the state of matrimony, the Church also designed marital relations to foster mutual love and unity; but this does not imply that they are to be used without a deliberate choice involving awareness of their procreative function and the serious lasting obligations that this necessarily implies.

Although we are living under the providence of God, Christian living involves many personal decisions. One is free to choose the vocation of marriage or another. He is free in his choice of a marriage partner. In marriage, couples may choose not to ex-



ercise their marital rights in order to give themselves more completely to the service of God and their fellowmen.

They may choose to enjoy marital relations according to their normal inclinations, with the intention of willingness and willingly accepting the children they may conceive. Because of physical circumstances, they may choose to limit the size of their family by restricting their use of marital relations, or they may decide to trust humbly in God's help and continue to have children in spite of their difficult situation.

There are decisions the Christian must make with full awareness of the serious commitments and obligations that entail. God will supply His helping graces, but the individual must make the choices and accept their consequences.

What do we mean when we say that children are God's will? In the first place, this statement implies a recognition of the fact that God created men "male" and "female," and commanded them to in-

Pope Ignored, Laborills Grow

Hartford, Conn. — "Cold indifference" to the appeals of the popes is at the root of today's social and economic troubles, Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien of Hartford has stated.

The Archbishop said in a pastoral letter that the popes "have pointed out the dangers and they have sounded the warning."

"THEY HAVE asked not for an apostolate built upon fear of the evils of communism. But rather for a positive apostolate which will arise from our loyalty to Christ and the justice and charity of His teachings," he continued.

"They have called for an heroic effort to meet the needs, but unfortunately, far too many have been boldly indifferent to the call."

"In the providence of God we have observed in Social Action

which both in Catholics and non-Catholics we are faced with serious responsibilities," he said.

The changes which have occurred in our generation have been deep and abiding. These changes give evidence of a worldwide social malaise, and the social problems which have been provoked must be resolved not by expedient remedies but by decisions which respect the dignity and the eternal destiny of all of God's human creatures."

The Archbishop's pastoral was issued in conjunction with the Hartford archdiocese's annual observance of Social Action Week.

Olympics

Priests On Skis Wait Sick Calls

Squaw Valley, Calif. — Ten skiing priests in black parkas will be standing by ready to glide to the spiritual assistance of any athlete injured in the VIII Winter Olympic Games which begin here February 18.

Aware of the physical dangers of vigorous winter sports Masses in three neighboring towns will be said in three neighboring towns on the Olympic days.

Father Patrick J. O'Neill, pastor of Assumption Church in nearby Truckee, Calif., and administrator for the newly-consecrated Queen of the Sierra Chapel here.

Joined three times as a skier, Father O'Neill will have his "Martyr priests" ready for "sick calls" on the slopes.

However, their main concern will be the basic spiritual ministrations for the hundreds of Catholic competitors from 33 nations and the thousands of spectators who will flock to this enthralling site of outdoor winter sports.

There will be Sunday Masses from 8 a.m. until noon on February 21 and 28 in the Alpine-style chapel seating 372, and

Masses every weekday morning.

Also there will be Sunday Masses in three neighboring towns on the Olympic days.

Cardinal McIntyre of Los Angeles will officiate February 18 at the blessing of the site in the 9,000-foot \$35 million skating pavilion built by the United States for the Olympics.

This religious ceremony honors St. Ulrich, patron saint of skiers.

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The three-hour meeting was the first in a weekly series held to satisfy Non-Catholics' legitimate intellectual curiosity in an impersonal way," the Catholic prelate explained.

"I BELIEVE it's good for us to meet like this," he told those present. "We want this and explanation, not a place for controversy. We are committed to too much aware of what divides us. But are we aware that at least 85 per cent of fundamental Christian beliefs are held by all of us?"

Accused of hostile propaganda against the Yugoslav Communist state and spreading religious and racial hatred, the defendant

face sentences of 15 years imprisonment at hard labor.

The Non-Catholics asked a year's respite to his invitation to attend the meeting.

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Red Mass In Washington

Washington — (RNS) — Meeting together after attending the annual Red Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, D.C., are Vice President Richard Nixon; Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle of Washington, the chaplain; and Chief Justice Earl Warren of the Supreme Court. More than 125 members of the House and Senate attended the service, as well as many high ranking armed forces officers, diplomats from nearly 30 nations, and Supreme Court members.

Albany 'Coffee Hour'

Explanation, Not Controversy

Albany — (RNS) — About 50 Non-Catholics attended an informal "coffee hour" discussion of Catholicism here conducted by Auxiliary Bishop Edward J. Maginn of Albany.

In reply to a question, "Why doesn't the Roman Catholic Church condemn capital punishment as a violation of the Fifth Commandment?" Bishop Msgr. Ms.

Catholic beliefs and practices Commandment?" Bishop Msgr. Ms.

Msgr. Msgr. said "Catholics believe that the auxiliary, dressed in ecclesiastical robes, answered,

in reply to a question, "Why doesn't the Roman Catholic Church condemn capital punishment as a violation of the Fifth Commandment?"

Answering another question, he said that the Catholic Church "cannot compromise on essentials in faith and morals. But the Church can and does change its Church law."

He predicted that the Pope's Ecumenical Council will bring Christians throughout the world closer together in fundamental belief.

Bishop Maginn said he was accused of hostile propaganda against the Yugoslav Communist state and spreading religious and racial hatred, the defendant

face sentences of 15 years imprisonment at hard labor.

The Non-Catholics asked a year's respite to his invitation to attend the meeting.

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