

I Am Sixteen, Going On Seventeen My Folks Don't Understand Me

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

Don't our parents realize that things have changed since they were young? Although I'm almost seventeen, my folks insist on knowing everything — and I mean everything! — about my social life. Whom were you with? Where did you go? What did you do? Why were you late? They treat me like a child. Because they name the exact hour I have to be home, I often have to leave a party just when it's starting to be fun. Don't they realize how embarrassing this can be?

Growing up in the modern world can be pretty rough at times, June, and I can fully appreciate some of your difficulties. It's not easy to be different from others, particularly when they seem to be nice kids, just interested in having a good time.

You feel you're getting old enough to stand on your own feet. This proves you're developing normally, for a spirit of independence is a necessary quality of a mature person.

But aren't you overlooking a few important points? In the first place, you are not yet a mature woman. To be sure, you've passed the awkward stage when you were considered too old for toys and too young for boys, but you still have a good way to go before you'll be entirely on your own. If you're not convinced that this is the case, just ask yourself who buys the groceries and who pays your bills.

You may consider your parents old-fashioned in some ways, but they're modern enough to know how to earn a living and to provide all the things you need while you're going to school.

How much time do you spend working about your next meal or how to pay for your new dress? No, you haven't grown up yet!

More important, when your parents brought you into the world, they accepted the responsibility before God and society of guiding you through the growth into full Christian maturity. Because we are all deeply influenced by the friends we have and the kind of social life we lead, an important part of your parents' responsibility consists in supervising your friendships and your social activities.

MOST PARENTS don't find this easy under modern conditions. Rapid means of transportation and a parental supervision doubly difficult, while the number and nature of the social activities now open to young people necessarily require that parents impose some limits and restrictions.

Let's look at it this way, June. Suppose your parents didn't care whom you were with, where you went, what you did, or when you returned home. If you failed in school because your social life interfered with your studies, they would just shrug their shoulders and say, "You're old enough to know your duty."



If you kept company with the wrong type of companions and got in trouble, they'd tell the police. "Don't blame it, she's old enough to know better." If you became pregnant, as now happens to thousands of girls your age, they would tell the social workers. "Why, at her age, we wouldn't insult her by trying to run her social life." If your emotions trapped you into an early marriage, again like so many thousands of girls your age, your parents would just nod. "You've made your bed, now you'll have to sleep in it."

DO YOU WANT your parents to treat you in this careless, offhand manner? Many delinquent girls complain bitterly that their parents neglected them. Although they were allowed to do as they pleased, they rightly regarded this parental permissiveness as an indication that their parents really didn't care for them.

I think you would feel the same way if your parents showed no concern about your social activities.

But you may say you only want them to show a little less concern. Well, June, let's look at your complaints a little closer. They want to know whom you're with. How else can they be sure that you don't keep company with persons who might mislead you or give you a bad reputation? They want to know what you did and where you went.

If you've behaved properly and remained away from disreputable places, why should you object to giving them this information? Surely as long as your parents are responsible for you, they must know what you do when you are from them.

You say they embarrass you by setting a definite hour when you must return home. If you stop to think about it, your parents are not unreasonable and their rules get you out of embarrassing situations. Good parents protect the health of their growing children by seeing to it that they get sufficient sleep.

They also know that it is imprudent for young couples to spend long periods together, particularly when they may be tired. For your part, if your date knows the hour you must be in, you won't have to argue with him about when to return, and you have an excellent excuse for avoiding some of the thoughtless, late-hour proposals that your common sense tells you are dangerous. All you have to say is, "Sorry, but you know what time I have to be home."

No, June, your parents are not old-fashioned. They may seem different from many others because they love you and take their parental responsibilities seriously. Although you may not know it, you're a very lucky girl.

Fire Wrecks Parish Booths

Ten festival booths built by men of Christ the King Church, Irondequoit, were nothing but charred remnants following a Wednesday night fire which swept the barn where they were stored.

Three Ridge-Cutler volunteer firemen were alerted by smoke as flames wrecked the rambling structure owned by attorney J. Allan Willis, 2155 Portland Ave., Rochester.

The booths were to be used at the parish festival this summer.

COURIER/JOURNAL
Friday, March 25, 1960

Hospitals Quit Blue Cross Plan

Philadelphia — (AP) — Eight area Catholic hospitals have announced they will end their membership in the Blue Cross insurance plan on March 31 because of failure to get a satisfactory new contract.

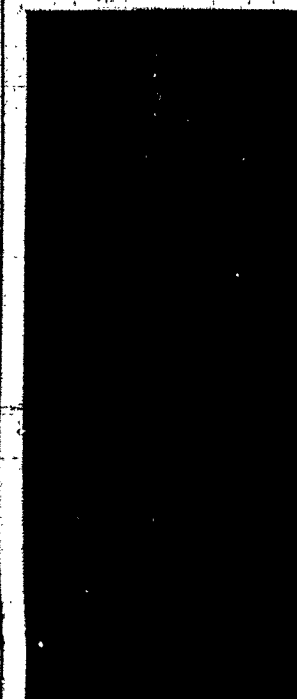
The Sisters who head the hospitals voted unanimously to make the move, following what was described by a spokesman for them as a complete breakdown in months-long negotiations over reimbursement.

THE HOSPITALS want Blue Cross reimbursement for care of subscribers to equal what the hospitals charge. The Blue Cross, on the other hand, wants to pay on the basis of a special formula to determine hospital "costs."

During negotiations, which began last June, the eight hospitals disclosed they had been giving Blue Cross patients a discount of 22 per cent, which amounted to a total loss of \$1.6 million last fiscal year.

They charged that Blue Cross contracts imposed a "fagging" bookkeeping burden upon their office staffs because of their complexity.

Blue Cross said it could not reimburse on the basis of billings because charges for the same service varied from one hospital to another.



BISHOP CARROLL

Prelate Dies Suddenly

Funeral rites for Bishop Howard J. Carroll, who died several weeks ago in Rochester, will be held at his Algonquin cathedral Monday morning.

He was bishop of the Pennsylvania diocese for a scant two years after 20 years as an officer of the National Catholic Welfare Conference headquarters in Washington.

He died Monday, March 21, 1960, in the capital city after visiting a doctor friend for a medical examination.

With him at the time of death was his brother, Bishop Coleman F. Carroll of Miami. Another brother, Monsignor Walter S. Carroll, a Vatican Secretariat of State official, died in 1950.

The cathedral, dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament and one of the nation's largest churches, is currently nearing completion, a goal set by Bishop Carroll when he was named to the see. Construction work on the vast edifice, begun in 1954, was stopped in 1957.

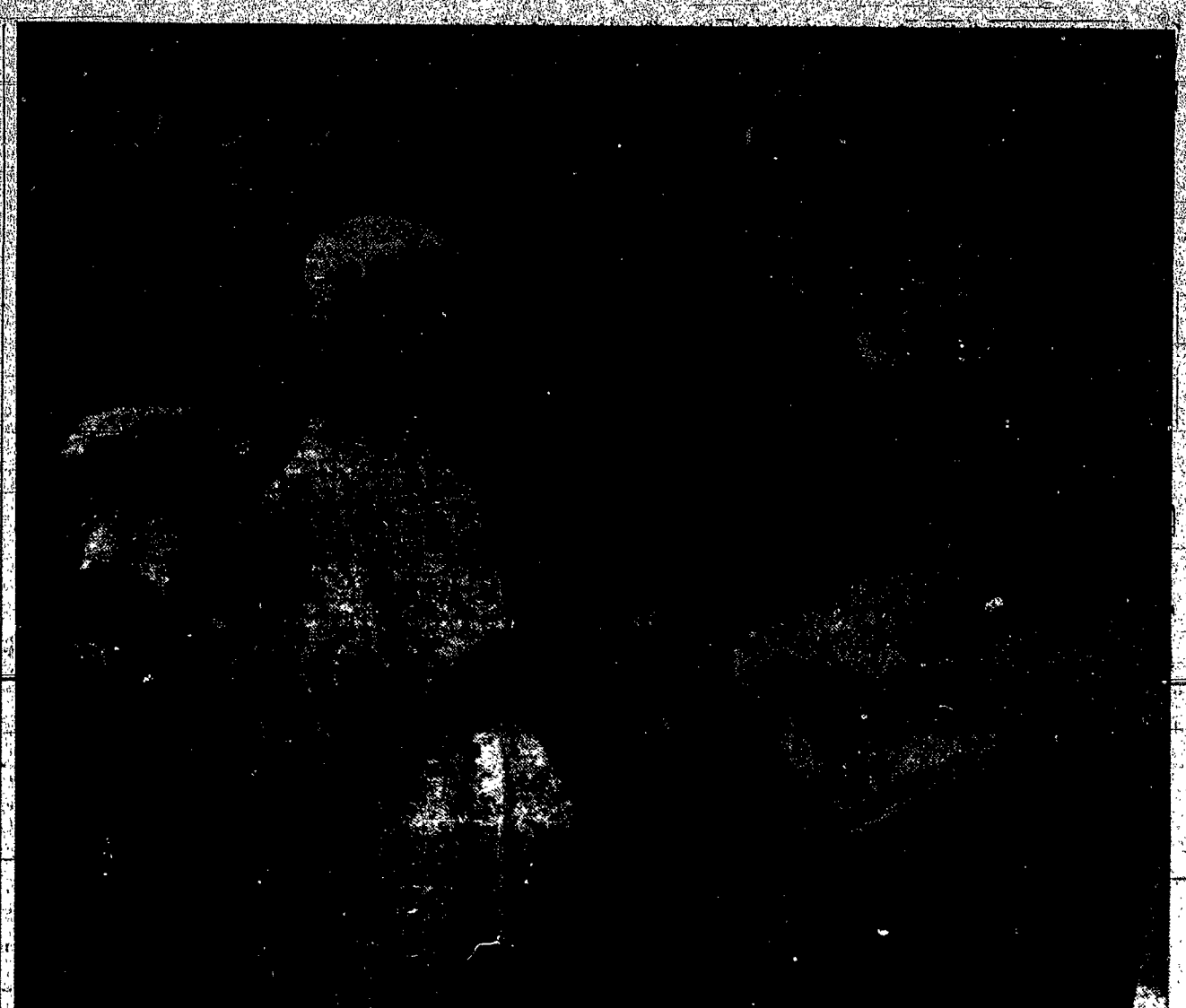
Film Depicts Martyr's Life

Mexico City — (RNS) — Mexican film producer Oscar Brooks has announced plans for a movie on the life of St. Philip of Jesus, a 16th century Mexican Franciscan missionary who was martyred on the hills above Hiroshima, Japan.

Mr. Brooks said the movie, to be called "The Sign of the Cross," will be filmed with the cooperation of Japanese motion picture designers Hiroshi Inoue and Masao. It will be in full color, with actors from both countries, he said.

Baptists Seek Funds For Home

Atlanta — (RNS) — The Georgia Baptist Hospital here has received approval from the Georgia Baptist Convention to submit a preliminary application to the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency for a \$2,500,000 loan to finance construction of a proposed home for student nurses.



U.S. Charity Aids Needy Children

America's charity enables Dutch Franciscan Father Titus to give milk to Pakistani school children. Catholics of the Rochester Diocese will join their co-religionists in contributing toward a \$5,000,000 goal this Sunday to continue the world-wide relief program of the Church.

Swallows Back At Capistrano

San Juan — (NC) — The swallows returned to this Catholic mission right on schedule again this year — St. Joseph's Day, March 19.

The birds arrived at daybreak. They were greeted by about 500 tourists and the peal of mission tower bells.

The mission was founded here in about 1776 by Father Junipero Serra, O.F.M., who established a series of West Coast missions.

The remarkable return of the birds on March 19 has been recorded here for many decades. They remain until mid-October, then leave for their winter haunts in South America.

Doctors' Despair Sends Irish Girl To Lourdes

Dublin — (RNS) — The good wishes of many Irish people accompanied a 14-year-old Belfast girl when she went on a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France.

They were subscribers to a fund which was originally intended to send Elizabeth McAnoy to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., to have an operation for a heart condition.

However, when the doctors expressed fears that the girl might not survive the operation, it was decided instead to send her to Lourdes.

As she left, Elizabeth said: "I am flying with hope in my heart and a prayer on my lips."

Pope Visits New Church

Rome — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII made his third Lenten Sunday visit to Rome to officiate at the solemn opening of a new church in the Primavalle suburb built with money largely collected in the United States.

The U.S. contributions for the church, dedicated to Our Lady of Good Health, were gathered by Father John H. Rocella, Minister General of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, during an extensive visit to the United States last year.

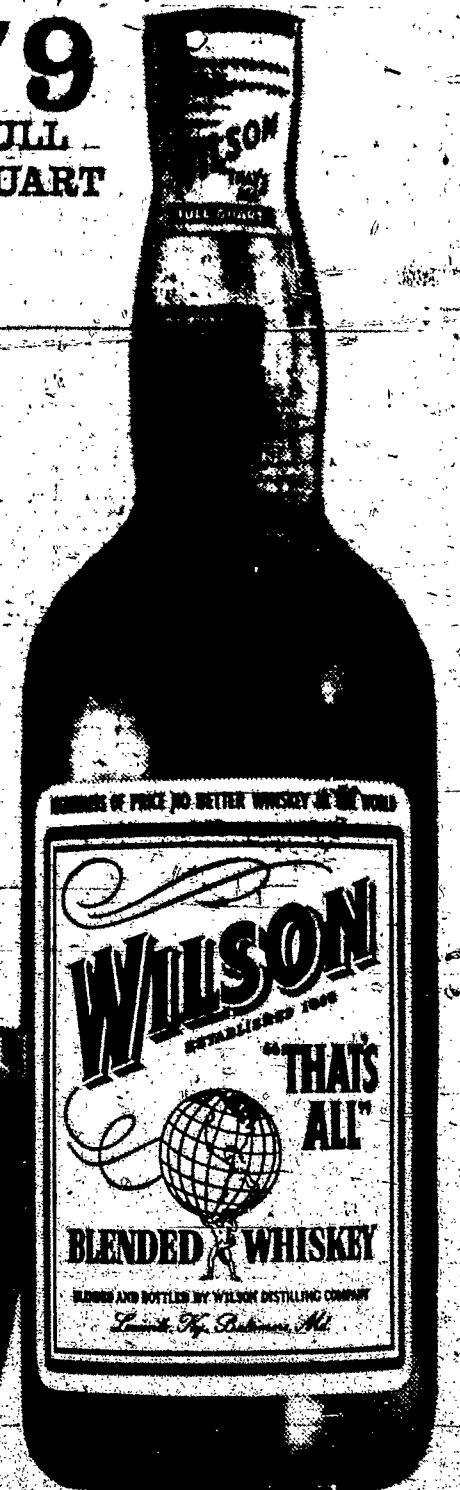
Many of the 48,000 residents of Primavalle suburb, where the Third Order has been assigned the task of revitalizing Catholic life, turned out to greet him.

Only Wilson pledges* quality

at \$4.79 FULL QUART



THE PRICE IS RIGHT



*THE WILSON PLEDGE — Wilson is one of America's oldest whiskey brands. Thousands have enjoyed it at a higher price. We pledge that today — at its new low price — Wilson is the same identical whiskey in every respect, still with the same fine quality and distinctive taste.

Save even more by the case! These prices effective in N.Y. State only. \$3.99 FIFTH \$2.49 TINT

WILSON DISTILLING COMPANY, LOUISVILLE, KY. BLENDED WHISKEY OF PROOF 72% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS

B. Forman Co.



CHECK THIS NEW SPRING SUIT IDEA

Checks are better than money in the bank!

Left and right: the 3-piece suit with double-breasted jacket, one pleated skirt, one solid-black skirt, 39.95.

Pure wool in sizes 8 to 16. Smart World.

Suits, Forman's Third Floor and Culver Ridge.