

## Our Married Life Is Just One Continuous Fight

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How do you handle a wife who's always looking for an argument, if you quarrel over anything and everything? We see you trying to reason with her or to discuss things calmly because she insists I can't understand what it is to run a home. Since she takes everything I say as a challenge, I keep quiet until things get too bad and then blow my top. I know it's wrong, but a man can stand just as much.



You know the old saying, Jack, "It takes two to quarrel." When marriage is a fight, find that their life has become one continuous round of arguments and quarrels, they should both examine their own consciences.

Considering the many joint decisions that must be made throughout the course of the average family cycle, we can expect normal couples to disagree on many points, but if they are sufficiently mature, they usually manage to settle their differences in a mutually satisfactory manner.

Hence it is not the absence of arguments, but the inability to bring them to an acceptable conclusion that marks a maladjusted couple.

I would have to know a great deal more about your personalities and general marital situation before I could hazard any judgment concerning the real reasons for the state of cold war that seems to exist between you and your wife.

Under the circumstances, the best I can do is to offer certain observations based on experience with similar cases, for your serious consideration.

**SOME COUPLES** quarrel constantly because they forget that marriage involves joint decisions. Unconsciously or otherwise, they seek unilateral or one-sided solutions to problems that necessarily involve at least two persons.

What they are really saying to their partner is, "Be reasonable, do it my way." For most family problems there are usually several workable solutions possible. The essential point is to agree on one and follow it consistently.

If husbands or wives always insist on their own solution, while failing to weigh other possibilities or refusing to consider the viewpoints of their spouses, they are missing the essential meaning of marriage as a partnership. Such persons agree that marriage makes a couple "two in one flesh" but they act as if they were the "one."

**ANOTHER SOURCE** of quarrels between husbands and wives stems from their failure

to recognize that their partners are distinct persons and consequently have a right to their own individual likes and dislikes, idiosyncrasies and peculiarities. They tend to regard their partners either as extensions of themselves or as objects to be molded and manipulated at their pleasure.

This is exploitation — a perennial threat in marriage, for although marriage demands the union and qualification of two personalities, its purpose is their mutual completion rather than the destruction of one for the benefit of the other.

True Christian charity — and this is a seeming paradox — requires the recognition of separateness rather than togetherness. It demands that we acknowledge the "otherness" of the other and that we respect the dignity of an "other" than ourselves, endowed with rights similar to ourselves.

Charity is so difficult to practice precisely because it forces us to keep this "otherness" of the other constantly in mind.

Some couples argue and quarrel about everything because their family life is without any plan, organization, or structure. They just try to "muddle" through, and when arguments arise about expressing the discipline of the children, in-laws, entertainment, and so forth, nothing is ever settled.

Somebody blows up, there's a first-class quarrel that goes round and round, leading nowhere; the tension finally subsides somewhat, and with

no clear plans for the future, the situation remains unchanged, obviously destined to generate another quarrel.

When family relationships assume this pattern, communications between spouses is reduced to an essential minimum. Both partners suffer from the lack of companionship, thus increasing the tension and mutual mistrust. The children are usually confused and disturbed by the situation, with the result that their problems become a further source of contention.

When couples find that their marriage has deteriorated to this state, it is high time for each partner to swallow their pride, to forget their mutual accusations, and to start thinking seriously about saving their souls.

If a competent spiritual director or marriage counselor is available, they should seek his help.

At the same time, with full awareness that they must answer to God for their mutual salvation and the souls of their children, they should sit down together and work out an acceptable plan of action, particularly in those areas causing most of their arguments.

This will become possible only if they bring God into the picture, for the institution, adjustment, and mutual concessions they must make will be realized in practice only if they see them as sacred obligations stemming from their responsibilities before God.

Well, Jack, I'm not sure whether I've thrown any light on your problem, but I feel that both you and your wife will profit by thinking over these general considerations.

## Control Pills Need Out In Puerto Rico

San Francisco — (NC) — Medical advances in Puerto Rico have put the rug from under the "birth control pill" tests now under way in the island commonwealth, a leading Puerto Rican physician said.

Dr. Federico Hernandez Morales of San Juan, P.R., declared the medical reasons for limiting births in Puerto Rico — by oral contraceptives or otherwise — are "gone."

"WE HAVE eradicated malaria and controlled tuberculosis to the point that one large government sanitarium has been closed," he said, "we are also making a dent in the parasitic diseases. Malnutrition has dropped sharply in the past 15 years. Children born today will not have to anticipate a life of disease-ridden misery."

Dr. Hernandez came here for the convention of the American College of Physicians. He is Puerto Rico's member on the ACP board of governors.

Pending disclosure of results of the current census, the island's population growth "would appear to be stabilized," he said. He noted that the birth rate has gone down as health, nutrition, and education have improved.

Dr. Hernandez agreed that 2,500,000 persons, averaging 700 to each of the island's 3,400 square miles, can be called "overpopulation." But, he insisted, the problem can be conquered by means other than birth control.

## N.Y. Bishop UN Observer

United Nations — (NC) — For the first time the Holy See has named an observer to a New York session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Auxiliary Bishop James H. Griffin of New York, chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee for the Pope's Peace Plan, will attend sessions studying proposals to aid newly independent states in Africa, both by economic development and in training civil servants. Other items include a draft declaration on freedom of information and a report on the development of water resources. The latter is closely linked to increasing agricultural production and industrialization.

## \$11 Million Pledged

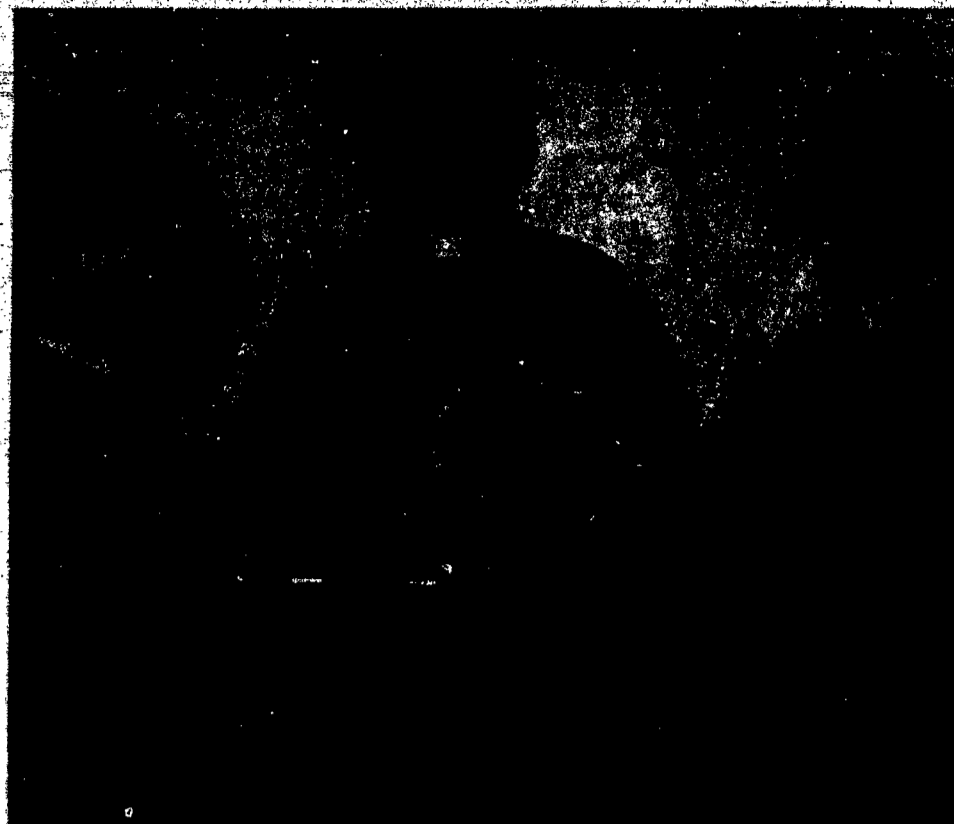
Brooklyn — (NC) — A diocesan expansion program seeking a minimum of \$30,000,000 for five new high schools and a residence for the clergy will get underway here, May 15.

Expected to be the largest diocesan campaign in the country, more than 50,000 men have volunteered to serve as parish workers in the general phase of the program. Over \$11,000,000 has already been pledged in the memorial gifts phase of the campaign.

## Choose Fast Dec. 23 or 24

Washington — (NC) — Individual Catholics are free to decide for themselves whether they will observe the pre-Christmas fast on Dec. 23 or 24, according to a canon law expert.

Father Henry J. Dubouard states that in transferring the fast from December 24 to December 23, the Sacred Congregation of the Council granted individuals "the privilege of choosing to fast and abstain either on the 23rd or on the 24th of December."



## Rochester Priest Greets Cardinal

Rochester Divine Word missionary Father Charles Erb met Tanganyika's new Prince of the Church, Laurent Cardinal Rugambwa, following Vatican rites conducted by Pope John XXIII. The Cardinal's cathedral in Rutaba is a hot-infested, native-made structure. Father Anthony Messah Brown (right) is a student priest in Rome soon to return to his Cape Cod diocese. Father Erb, pastor in a Ghana parish, will be in America for a lecture tour during May and June. (SVD Photo)

## 'He Was A Good Son'

## Farm Lad Now Prelate

La Crosse — (NC) — A rural help George through the seminary. For all of us. We are proud of him. We knew he would be a good priest because he was a good son.

Alphonse Hammes, brother of Bishop-elect George A. Hammes of Superior, was stunned when he first heard the news of the elevation of the present Chancellor of the La Crosse Diocese. But then he thought back.

"YOU KNOW, dad was right after all," he said. "He used to say at meal time that one of us boys would be a Bishop some day. George was the fourth oldest of our 18 children, and we just assumed that he was the logical one to make dad's prediction come true. But we didn't think it would be this soon (Bishop-elect Hammes is 48)."

The Hammes boys and girls grew up on a farm about 10 miles from La Crosse, where the parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Hammes, now reside.

"Dad always led the prayers," recalled Alphonse, "and we said the Rosary, the Angelus and grace before and after meals. He still does whenever we get together, unless our priest-brother is there too. Then dad orders to him."

Another brother, Bernard, who served daily Mass with the Bishop-elect when they were boys in the not-so-prosperous 1920s, recalled that the family made sacrifices to stay together, make the farm a success and

## Nikita Keeps His Promise

Moscow — (RNS) — Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev kept a promise he made to a Catholic priest during his visit to the United States last fall to enable his aged mother to leave Lithuania and join her children in Chicago.

Delivered to 72-year-old Mrs. Anna G. Frankish of Kansas was an exit visa that made it possible for her long-checked-out dream to come true.

The Chicago priest spoke to the Premier in Moscow at Washington and gave him an envelope containing a request that he permit his mother to come to the United States. "I will do that," Mr. Khrushchev told Father Frankish, who is editor of *Democracy*, a Lithuanian daily published in Chicago.

## 117 Receive Baptism In Hartford

Hartford — (NC) — The largest group of converts in the history of this archdiocese was received into the Church here in a single ceremony at St. Lawrence O'Toole church.

The (April 10) baptism of 117 converts was the result of a series of public lectures on the teaching of the Church held throughout the greater Hartford area for the past six months.

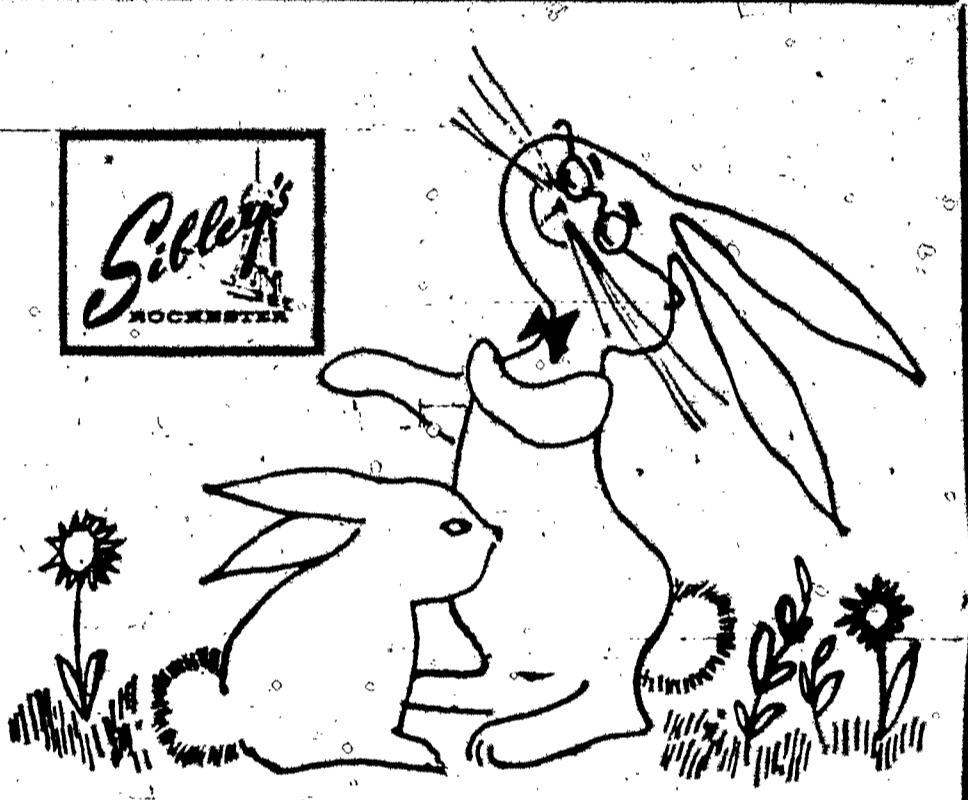
THE LECTURES, sponsored by the archdiocesan Contraternity of Christian Doctrine, were designed to acquaint Non-Catholics with the belief and worship of their Catholic neighbors.

Father Gordon P. Wadhams, a faculty member of St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield, Conn., preached at the ceremony. Father Wadhams was an Episcopalian minister before his conversion and subsequent ordination to the priesthood.

The commentary during the baptismal rite was given by Father Francis X. Ryan, C.A.P., director of the Father Gillis Information Center, Boston, Mass.

## Anglicans Ordained

Rome — (NC) — Five former Anglican clergymen — three vicars, a curate and a monk — were among 11 students ordained at Bede College, major English seminary in Rome.

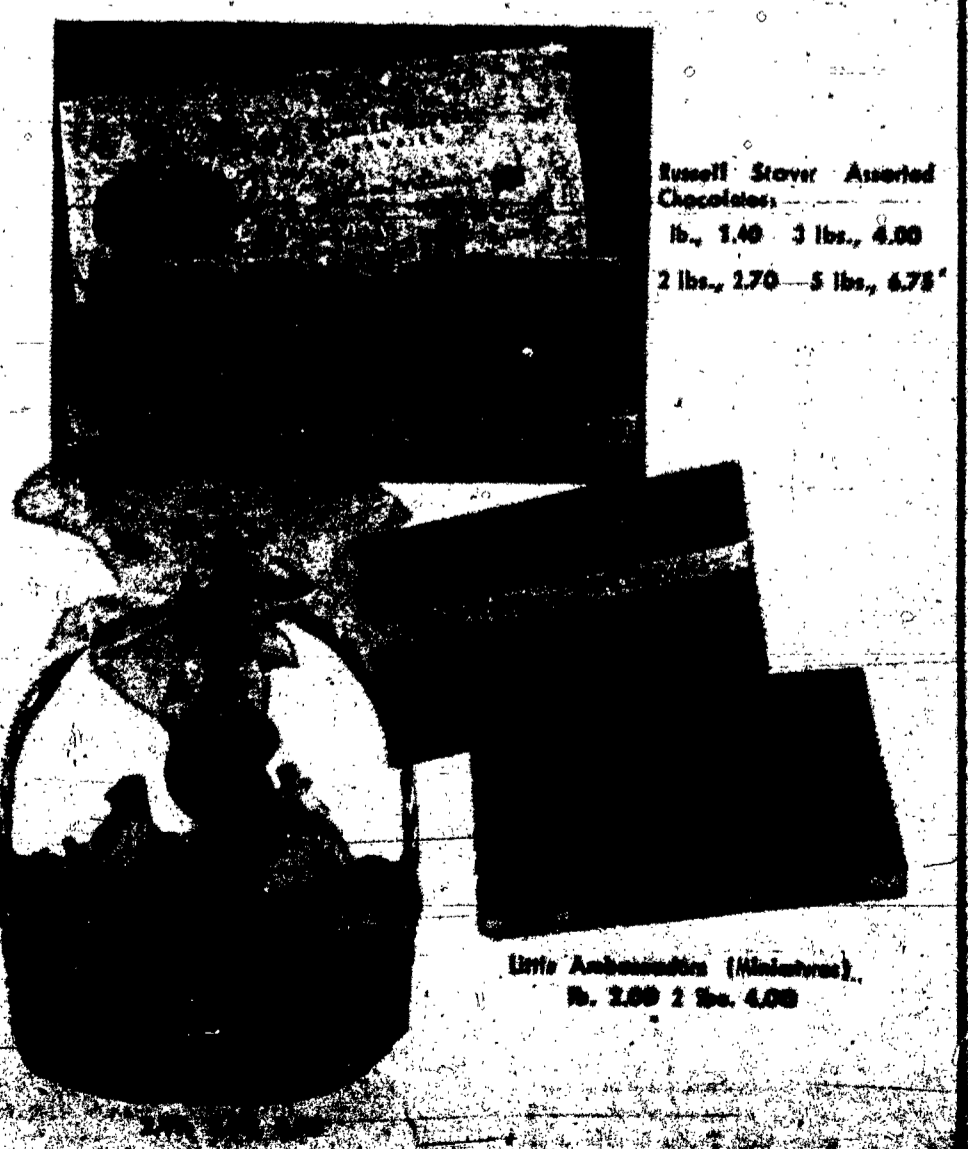


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