

How Can I Make My Husband Act As If He Wasn't A Hermit?

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

How do you live with a hermit? My husband offers me no companionship. All he wants is to be left alone. We have no family life, no good times together, no feeling of friendship. We don't even watch television together. When he's home, he just nips one bottle of beer after another. This is no atmosphere in which to raise children. Yet what can I do?



I wish I knew a good solution to your problem, May, but so far, I haven't discovered one that's legal. There's plenty of room for hermits in the world — the deserts are fairly empty, and most caves are still unoccupied. Hermits seem to have been more considered in the past.

They avoided the entanglements of marriage and lived contentedly by themselves. Judging from the letters I receive, the modern hermit prefers to maintain his loneliness in a crowd. Maybe the ancient hermits didn't like beer!

I'm not making light of your problem, May. Other wives have come to me with similar difficulties, so I've had to puzzle over this situation before.

Some couples go silent for several weeks after every quarrel. One wife reports that she and her husband have not spoken for over a year. Another tells me that her husband spends as little time with the family as possible, eats his meals hurriedly, in silence, and expects utter quiet while he's reading the paper or watching television.

Most of these husbands have several traits in common. First, they do not seem capable of real companionship with the opposite sex, at least, not with their wives.

Second, they regard marriage as a convenient social arrangement, designed to take care of their needs in regard to room, board, and sex.

Third, they consequently have their own definition of marital roles. Wives are house-

keepers, sexual partners, and missemaids. If husbands are breadwinners and have a right to prompt service, peace and calm around the home.

Children are the concern of their mothers and should be taught to show respect and obedience toward their hard-working fathers.

Fourth, they do not believe that marriage is a partnership in the sense that husbands and wives should enjoy each other's company or mutually complete each other as masculine and feminine persons. Men and women live in separate worlds, and there would be fewer family problems if women learned to keep their place.

Of course our married hermits don't analyze their attitudes and feelings in this detail. Most of them don't do much abstract thinking—they know they're right, so why try to argue about it? Their demands are simple.

All they want is to be left alone. The wife has no check coming. Where would she and

the kids be if the husband didn't work so hard to support them?

They sometimes rationalize their behavior in the following manner: "I don't know whether I'm acting like other husbands or not, but this is the way I'm built. I'm like my father, and you can't expect a man to change now. My mother got along all right, so why shouldn't my wife? Besides, I have to think about my work. A man shouldn't be bothered by a lot of nonsense around the home when he's tired and has other things on his mind."

The same pattern of thinking always emerges. Marriage is regarded as a kind of business deal providing a convenient division of labor.

Because they seem incapable of companionship, they neither miss it nor make any provision for it in their thinking. Above all, they don't like to be bothered when they are off the job. If any adjustments are to be made, they'll have to be made by others.

Trujillo Press Knives Church

Ciudad Trujillo — (RNS) — The government-controlled press here has accused bishops and priests of working with Communists and of seeking to "confuse" the people by "falsehoods."

The attacks are in the form of editorials, letters from readers or long articles on front pages of newspapers.

They came after the Catholic hierarchy had issued two pastoral letters condemning "excesses" in the regime of Generalissimo Rafael Trujillo Molina, who has ruled the Dominican Republic as dictator for more than 30 years.

IN THEIR pastorals the bishops also appealed for the release of large numbers of "political prisoners" jailed in connection with an alleged plot early this year to overthrow the present regime.

Among prelates who have come under attack have been Bishop Francisco Pinal Ramirez of La Vega, and Bishop Thomas F. Kelly, C.S.S.R., Boston-born Prelate of San Juan de la Maguana.

In a letter to the editor, Bishop Pinal was charged with making statements not based on truth. It also raked what social welfare work had been accomplished in his diocese.

Another letter accused Bishop Kelly of seeking to "confuse" the people. An editor's note to the letter criticized the prelate for allegedly speaking of the "economic crisis that the people are enduring" and asking for prayers for the "political prisoners."

At times the press attacks have included charges against the Church in general. El Caribe, government newspaper, prominently displayed a letter asserting that the Catholic Church should be pleased by the recent repeal of the country's ban against Communist party activities.

Reds Elect New Bishop In Shanghai

Hong Kong — (NC) — A schismatic bishop has been "elected" to replace imprisoned Bishop Ignatius Kung, S.J., of Shanghai, according to reports from Red China.

The reports said that the "election" took place during a meeting which also organized a Shanghai branch of the Vatican-condemned Patriotic Association of Chinese Catholics.

THE COMMUNIST New China News Agency report identified the person "elected" bishop as a Father Chang Chia-shu. To date about 30 schismatic bishops have been consecrated in China, as a result of the Red effort to separate the nation's Catholics from the Holy See.

Bishop Kung was sentenced to life imprisonment in March at the same time that Bishop James E. Walsh, M.M., the last U.S. missionary in Red China, was sentenced to 20 years in jail. The two were jailed on trumped-up charges of treason and espionage.

The communist news agency's dispatch said that more than 850 Catholics from various districts and counties in the Shanghai area, including priests, Sisters and lay people, attended the meeting that "elected" the schismatic bishop.

Five Per Cent Enter Religion

Cleveland — (NC) — A total of 204 graduates of Cleveland diocesan high schools entered the seminary or religious life in the past 11 months, a survey here has disclosed.

The survey, conducted by Msgr. William N. Novicky, assistant school superintendent, showed that almost five per cent of last June's 4,235 graduates have chosen religion vocations. Another 34 persons were graduates of previous years. The total includes 143 girls and 61 boys.

IN EVALUATING the survey, Msgr. Novicky said that though the percentage of students going into religious life seems fairly good, he will not be satisfied until it rises to at least 10 per cent. He cited parents' objections as the chief deterrent to vocations.

"Some parents," he said, "actually defy the will of God and encourage their children to walk on every other avenue except that which leads to life as a Sister, Brother or priest."

Bishop Sheen In Jerusalem

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Crossing "No Man's Land" at the Mandelbaum Gate in Jerusalem going from Jordan into Israel are Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and his two grandsons, Jerry and Fulton Cunningham. They were in the Holy Land being photographed by famed photographer Yousuf Karsh of Ottawa for a new book, "This is the Holy Land," to be published by Hawthorn Books, New York, in 1961.

Boys Phone Pope John

By JOHN THOMAS

Carteret, N.J. — (NC) — A nine-year-old boy's telephone call to the Vatican in March resulted in an unexpected dividend for the boy and his brother.

A letter from the Vatican arrived at their home here (May 5). It contained, besides a letter from an English-speaking member of the Vatican Secretariate of State, a papal blessing for the boys and their family and two colored portraits of Pope John XXIII, signed by the Holy Father himself.

The Carteret-to-Vatican phone caller is Robert Gorecki of Holy Family parish. Hearing in of the March 23 conversation was his brother Stanley, 12. Both are altar boys at Holy Family church and both hope to become priests.

The boy's call to the Vatican was considered unique by everyone but Robert. Nobody had ever told him that altar boys shouldn't call the Pope and to him it was inconceivable that

the Holy Father wouldn't be able to take the time to talk with him.

Robert wanted to talk to the Pope, he said, because he wanted to find out "how it felt to be so close to God." Robert said he was "feeling very close to God" himself at the time because he was very grateful for recovery from a brain concussion which had hospitalized him.

So he asked Sister Francis Marie at school how he could get in touch with the Holy Father. Unsuspecting, she told him she would have to dial 181 for the overseas operator.

And that's just what he did. A suspicious phone operator almost short-circuited the call, asking to speak to Robert's mother. Mrs. Stanley Gorecki, who was in the kitchen, was told that the call would be expensive. But Robert wasn't to be sidetracked; he offered to pay for the call himself with money he saved as a newsboy. So Mrs. Gorecki relented.

After a 20-hour delay, the call was put through. The English-speaking secretary at the Vat-

ican answered. He explained why Robert and Stanley couldn't speak to the Holy Father, but assured them he would deliver their message immediately. In all, he chatted with the boys for seven minutes, encouraging them in their desire to be priests.

Then came the unexpected letter, which said in part: "I had the pleasure of conveying to the Holy Father the contents of your telephone call. The Pontiff would have me tell you that he much appreciates the sentiments of filial devotion which prompted this venture. He bids me assure you of his prayers for your intentions and as a mark of his benevolence and in pledge of copious divine favors, he cordially imparts to you, to your parents and to your loved ones his paternal apostolic blessing."

The telephone call cost the Goreckis \$28 plus tax. And Robert's father, an excavating contractor, has decided Robert won't have to pay the bill out of his newspaper earnings.

Aid to mut

(RNS) — ceating the cooperation ing the into the been intro- by Rep. (R.N.L.). mber of the ubcommittee Kathryn M. which has the problem mails, said to find that "heets" have n American

Neil Duffy New Jersey, verifications umns of the "unquestion- is a chance rverts."

SMAN said ned that the is also pop- ho prey on to whom gs are part

stop should on of such States. ch he intro- duction 519, ense of the tives that is long per- ons between nd Canada, equested to me to the da to en-iv- that nation mportation tes of ob- printed ma-

na Chinese and nger.

a refugee oria, Arch- that he was for a new in Formosa Taipei. The isoned by r to estab- will replace which was a Chinese

id he hope- ge of stu- el between lution and he said he this educa- Australian educational



show your good fashion sense

BARE YOUR ARMS

A noted fashion editor said it most succinctly, "One way to look old but this summer is to wear dresses with sleeves." You'll see the bare arm dress everywhere, and for every occasion—and nowhere does it get any prettier treatment than in these cool Stacy Ames dresses. Wear them in the city, in the office, in the country and at parties—they're that versatile! Sibley's Career Shop, Second Floor, Irondequoit, Eastway, Southtown, New York.

- 1. Black and white or green and white cotton pique. 10-18, 14.98
- 2. Irish linen sheath in blue, green, black or white. 10-18, 10.98
- 3. Blue or green print cotton voile. 10-18, 14.98

SIBLEY'S, Rochester 4, N. Y. CCC #118 81.

Please send me the following Stacy Ames cottons:

| Quant. | Style # | Color | Size | Price |
|--------|---------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

charge check

Name

Address

City

Charge Check