

'World's End' Scores Mexicans

Mexico City—(RNS)—Large numbers of Mexico's Roman Catholic population have been seriously disturbed by stories from Italy where a group of so-called mystics have predicted the end of the world on July 14, according to reports from many parts of the country.

The Italian stories told of groups of spiritualists who gathered on the slopes of Mount Blanc in the Italian Alps to escape destruction of the world by a mercury bomb. Among them was a Milan doctor, who predicted that the explosion would knock the earth 45 degrees off its axis, sending oceans up over the land.

ARCHBISHOP Miguel Diaz patronized by the anti-episcopate end of the world. There were warnings from leaders of a private religious retreat near Temascalcingo that not this year but 1961 would be "the year of apocalypse," and that "when the work of the end is over, the earth will be a desolate land, where not one man will remain to share, in the Divine fury."

Both said that "years ago" of this type had been made many times in the past.

Meanwhile, a great part of the population appeared to be taking the matter more seriously. While a minority joked about the matter, church attendances were reported to have gone up visibly at masses as people sought to ward off the evil.



My In-Laws. Just Tolerate Me. They Always Criticize Me

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

I had the misfortune to marry a son of a doing parent. He's a wonderful husband and we love each other very much, but his parents have never felt that I was good enough for him. They make no secret of their dislike for my way of doing things and criticize everything I do around the house. I keep wondering, "What is there about their son that makes me so unworthy to be his wife?" I'm not looking for fine prizes, but it's difficult just to be tolerated and never accepted.

You've uncovered a sore spot in more than one marriage, Judith. Although many parents apparently feel that their child is making a poor choice at marriage, most of them get over it rather quickly.

Such adverse parental feelings are highly complex and stem from a variety of sources. Some parents deeply resent the "loss" of their child through marriage. Some family circles are so narrowly and selfishly fashioned that no "outsider" will be admitted as an equal.

Many parents tend to overestimate their social standing or the qualities of their offspring, with the result that they don't recognize a good bargain when they see one.

We sometimes forget that all courtship systems are market systems in which desirable bargains are struck. In former times parents did most of the bargaining, carefully weighing such commodities as wealth, social standing, family backgrounds, personality, looks, and so on.

Although young people are now supposed to do the bargaining, some fond parents find it difficult to accept their decision. As in your case, Judith, they continue to act as if their child had been cheated. Particularly where social class or nationality differences are presumed to exist, this arrogant attitude of rejection can become very strong.

In some cases parents and relatives do not feel content until they have ruthlessly broken the marriage. One woman told me they interpreted the divine command, "Let no man put asunder what God hath joined together."

How can you deal with your situation? First, you discussed this problem with your husband. As you said, he loves you and your marriage is happy. If he's like most men, he probably hasn't noticed or attached little significance to his parents' attitude in this regard.

You should make your feelings quite clear to him, spelling out the details so he'll get the picture from your point of view. Of course you can't expect him to do much about the situation.

Most men, and particularly as only child, are quite helpless in dealing with their parents, but it is highly important that he become fully aware of how you feel.

Further, you might evaluate your own attitude. You appear to feel much more insecure than you should. How do you define your role as wife and mother of his child? It is possible that you have been too ready to make concessions to the criticism.

to please and to be accepted? You are no longer the bride, eager to make a success of her marriage and not too sure of herself because she has not yet proved her worth.

You are a wife and mother, the responsible head of a large household, and in need of making no apologies for being around or intruding into the sacred precincts of their narrow clan.

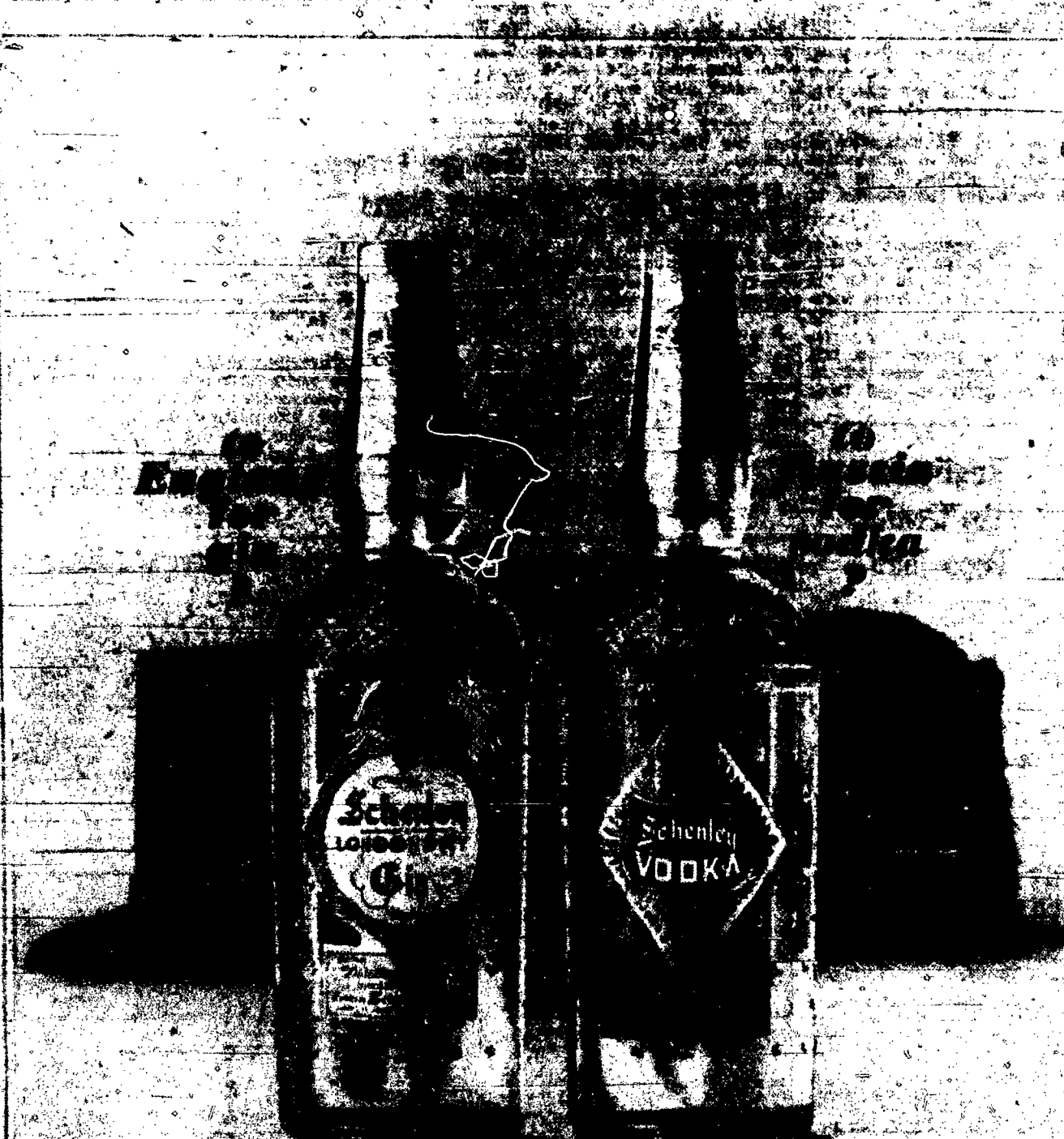
Hence when his parents move in for their annual visit, you should make it clear to them that you are not their servant but their hostess. Although they should feel welcome as guests, they must realize that they are only guests. With a family your size to take care of, it is a thoughtless imposition on their part to expect you to arrange your family schedule

to suit their needs alone.

Nor should you meekly take their criticism of the way you run your home in silence. Remind them that this is your responsibility, not theirs. Whether they happen to like the way you manage your affairs is beside the point. This is your home, and you must feel confident in your right to run it as you see fit.

This advice may sound rather strong. However, it is clear from your letter that your husband's parents are the narrow, domineering type that will respect you only if you take a firm stand. At present they evidently regard you not as an independent person but as somewhat of a servant, or at best, as a mere extension of their son, whom they have never released.

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Priest Pool To Ease Shortage

Vienne—(RNS)—An international effort to ease the shortage of Catholic clergy in many areas of Europe will begin with the sending of Dutch priests to dioceses in Austria.

In a press conference here, Coadjutor Archbishop Franz Jachym of Vienna disclosed that Austria would be one of the first European nations to share in the plan, but that the dioceses of Essen and Paderborn in Germany and others in Scandinavia were expected to benefit later.

The archbishop noted that in these dioceses "there is a great scarcity of priests and seminarians" while in other parts of Europe "there are dioceses with an oversupply."

He said Holland, for example, leads all other European countries in the proportionate number of priests and seminarians, and thus the Dutch hierarchy has agreed that Holland become the initial source of supply for priests under a new "pooling" arrangement.

Archbishop Jachym said an international clearing house will be started up in Holland under the sponsorship of the St. Lazarus Foundation to prepare Catholic populations in dioceses to which foreign priests will be sent.

"This center, he said, also will assume the responsibility for training priests in the language, Church history and pastoral conditions of the countries being supplied."

No Split Personality

Charleston—(NC)—The average Catholic has no split personality with regard to his nation and his Church, a bishop said here.

"This legend of divided Catholic loyalty has flourished because the professional anti-Catholic has been building it for a century... and because Catholics have not bothered to refute it," said Bishop Paul J. Hallinan of Charleston.

The bishop spoke on a television broadcast sponsored by the Charleston Diocesan Council of Catholic Men.

Speaking of the coming national political conventions, Bishop Hallinan said that "no more than any Catholic bishop, I am interested in the candidate's religion—only whether he professes and practices it sincerely."



Want To Go To Cool Mass?

Camp Century, Greenland—(RNS)—Chaplain (Capt.) Daniel F. Byrne conducts a Catholic service at Camp Century, Greenland, for Army engineers digging an atom-proof base under the ice some 900 miles from the North Pole. The completed project, to house 100 men, will include a small chapel.

Tell Public Church Stand

Louisville—(RNS)—Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati called for a concerted effort on the part of Catholics to bring the true position of the Church to the attention of the public.

He suggested this as a way to offset views expressed by some Protestants and Jews of Catholics which he said were "not always favorable."

In an address to the 52nd international convention of the Knights of St. John, a Catholic fraternal organization to which he is supreme spiritual advisor, Archbishop Alter said many Protestants were worried about what legal restraints might be placed on freedom should Catholics ever constitute

a political majority in this country.

Saying that Catholics had no desire to destroy the first Amendment or the freedom of religion, the archbishop added, "We can't brush aside these charges, for our silence might lead some to think that there is truth in them."

He recommended a new public relations program aimed at those outside the Church, because "Non-Catholics don't read our publications."

The prelate also called for more participation by the laity in community affairs, noting that such participation was a duty for citizens.

After reading a cablegram

Citizens Role Studied In Tanganyika

London—(RNS)—Plans for a ten-day seminar in Tanganyika that will stress the role Catholics there can play in the political and social life of the East African country were announced here.

The seminar, which was founded at London in 1940 by the late Arthur Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, to help create an informed Catholic public opinion on world affairs. The seminar, which was arranged on behalf of the Tanganyikan bishops, will be held Aug. 15 at the Nyegesi seminary at Mwanza.

Major Patrick Wall, M.P., chairman of the Africa Committee, will attend the seminar, along with R. P. Walsh, organizing secretary of the Catholic Social Guild, and Joseph Botting, a community development officer at present working in Mululira, Northern Rhodesia.

Nurses Have Noblest Task

Essen—(RNS)—There are certainly professions which are more attractive and better paid, but no profession is more Christian and more blessed than to serve man. Bishop Franz Hengsbach of Essen told several hundred Catholic Red Cross nurses attending a Red Cross Congress here.

Bishop Hengsbach, who celebrated a Pontifical Mass for the Catholic participants in the congress, said that "to serve man is the noblest task which ultimately can be performed only out of the strength of the faith."

Look Alikes Bridge Ranks

Vatican City—(RNS)—A group of clothing designers, mostly Americans, were praised by Pope John XXIII for their work of "trying to establish a truly international suit for men, rich and poor alike."

This, the Pontiff said at an audience to some 50 delegates attending a convention in Rome of the International Association of Clothing Designers, was a laudable method of eliminating barriers between nations.

The delegates were led by association president Joseph Giuseppi of Cincinnati, O., and vice-president Robert Weil of Philadelphia. They included leading menswear designers from the United States, Canada, Latin America, Australia, Sweden and Italy.

20 Thousand Pilgrimage

Mexico City—(RNS)—The annual pilgrimage on foot from Queretaro to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe here saw 20,000 Catholic faithful complete the 200-mile, three-day march this year to prostrate themselves at the feet of the Dark Lady of Tepepan.

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