

Why Doesn't The Church Adapt Itself To The Tempo Of Our Times?

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Isn't it about time that the Church reconsidered its teaching on sex? Social conditions and human nature have changed a great deal since the Church's doctrine was first developed. What worked well in the past doesn't necessarily "make sense" today. Modern Catholics can't build their lives on standards meant for another day. How can we follow leaders who refuse to take into consideration the situations we have to face in our daily lives?

You have asked several questions and made several statements in a strictly speaking, would require separate responses. However, I take it that the major burden of your complaint is that the Church is out of step with the times in its teaching on sex, so that Catholics find it impossible to live up to her outmoded demands.

If true, this constitutes a serious indictment, for sex touches life so intimately and in so many different ways that the promotion of false standards would seriously inhibit the moral development of Christians.

Your complaint seems to have some basis in fact. Some Catholic couples obviously ignore the Church's teaching in regard to marital fidelity and birth control, while we often hear it said that Catholic youth differ little from others in the sexual standards they follow in practice.

But the truth of moral standards is judged by their origin and content, not by their acceptance. It is not Catholic teaching on sex that is based on obsolete, unchanging principles. It "makes sense" today as it did in the past. At present the Church's teaching is being questioned because these principles have been rejected. We shall answer your question therefore, by restating the principles.

First, we have been created by God and stand in a relationship of essential dependence on Him every moment of our lives. Second, as rational creatures we can know what is right and follow it. The "right" way means we



use things according to the purpose the Creator intended in creating them. Third, since God places created things under our charge and dominion, we act according to right reason when we use them for our development and perfection in His service.

Fourth, God alone is the Author of life. He has placed the principles of life (our reproductive systems) under our dominion. We must also respect, as we respect life itself, the co-principles of life that the Author of life has entrusted to our care for the good of the human race, not primarily for our pleasurable use.

IN OTHER words, because our sexual faculties enable us to cooperate with the Creator in the procreation of new life, we must follow the divine plan in using them. Procreation is the most noble act that man is privileged to perform in the natural order.

When considering the Church's teaching we must always be mindful of the unique character of the sexual act. It is the act that God has ordained for the conservation and propagation of the human race, and it can be performed only through the special cooperation of the Creator, the Author of each new life.

Since the marriage contract confers equal rights on both partners in regard to marital relations, physical union may be desired by either spouse for the purposes of showing affection and love, having children, or the release of tension. All these purposes are consonant with the right use of sex because the marriage bond unites husband and wife in love, mutual service, and procreative intimacy.

On the other hand, it is seriously evil to use marital rights in such a way that the sex is deliberately frustrated in its natural power to generate life (birth control), for such action is contrary to the divine plan.

Co-Exist With Reds? Twilight Zone Said Impossible

Atlanta — (RNS) — Supreme Knight Luke E. Hart told delegates at the annual meeting here of the Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus, that in spite of all that has been written and said about living with Communism, "there is no such possibility."

"There is no acceptable twilight zone between freedom, as we know it, and Communist, as we have bitterly learned to know it," he said. "The issue is clearly drawn."

Addressing an earlier session the Iowa-born attorney said there has been a revival in various parts of the country of the circulation of a false oath allegedly taken by K of C members. Mr. Hart related the society's recent efforts to check and, where necessary, prosecute circulators of the oath.

Declared spurious by a Congressional investigating committee in 1913, the so-called oath pledges K of C members to do bodily harm to Non-Catholics.

Mr. Hart reported that the fraternal benefit society of Catholic men has reached a record membership of nearly 1,140,000 and has more than

Thousand Shrines To Our Lady

Greens, Iowa, — (NC) — A religious hobby started 10 years ago has resulted in a sizable Marian collection for an Iowa farm wife.

Mrs. Emil Ruzicka of Buell County has collected more than 1,000 photographs and paintings of shrines to the Blessed Mother that are located in all parts of the world. She also has about 50 statues of Our Lady.

When she started the collection in 1950, Mrs. Ruzicka wrote to Pope Pius XII, asking him to bless her project. The blessing the Pope sent adorns a wall of her home.

Mrs. Ruzicka was able to compile the collection by writing to officials of shrines and to missionaries stationed in all parts of the world.



Bishop Walsh In Red China

Hong Kong — (RNS) — This is believed the first picture of Bishop James E. Walsh (right) since the 68-year-old Maryknoll prelate was placed under house arrest in Red China in 1951. It shows his brother, Judge William G. Walsh of Cumberland, Md., handing him a family photo during a recent visit to the Shanghai prison where the bishop is serving a 20-year term for alleged espionage against the Chinese Communist regime. The picture was taken by a Chinese photographer and brought to Hong Kong by Mr. Walsh, where it was released for the public.

Nuns Told Don't Flee The World

South Bend, Ind. — (RNS) — Superior of Catholic religious communities attending the eighth annual Institute of Spirituality at the University of Notre Dame were warned not to confuse "fleeing from the world" with "abandoning the world."

In an address to some 1,200 nun-participants, the Rev. Robert Pelton, C.S.C., said the latter was often "not spirituality but selfishness."

THE NOTRE DAME institute attempts to assist Catholic religious superior in the spiritual formation of Sisters under their supervision.

"The mind of Christ implies a spiritual embracing of the suffering world," Father Pelton declared. "We must return to this spirit of Christ."

"I would suggest," he added, "that if the superior is to contribute to the better understanding of cancer, she must first be a Christian."

Cancer Society Honors Women

Washington — (RNS) — The National Council of Catholic Women received a certificate of recognition from the American Cancer Society.

The gold on white certificate was awarded to the Council for its special efforts on behalf of the 1960 crusade for better understanding of cancer.

Father Pelton also stressed what he described as the "great need for theological orientation of Sisters." Such orientation, he said, "is important for nuns no matter what their apostolates may be."

Referee's Last Whistle

Knox Orange, (NC) — His whistle packed, Vincent DePaul (Vinnie) Farrell, internationally known basketball official from Holy Name parish here, is ready for another Olympic Farrell, who will be making his 15th — and last — appearance as an official at international competitions is remembered as the central figure in the biggest ruckus of the 1952 Games at Helsinki.

Called on then to referee 11 games, although he had only been booked for three, he wound up in the hospital for four days when he was beaten (he lost four teeth) and kicked by dejected Uruguayan basketball players.

The incident took place at the game between France and Uruguay, won in the last seconds by France, came to an end. A call by Farrell led to Uruguay's defeat and precipitated the attack.

When Farrell left the hospital and made an appearance at one of the final games as a spectator, he was given a standing ovation. His work in the Games led to an invitation — not yet accepted — to visit Russia.

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