

Should a Young Woman Marry Against Her Father's Wishes?

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

We as all right to marry against your father's will? You shouldn't and hope to marry on a few occasions when you do. Since marriage from earliest times has been a sacrament and God wants it opposed to human sinfulness. We mother has been dead for some years, so I've been raising the house. It seems that doesn't work. He gives me no money. He's given me no place to live and with basic feelings he's got no place to go.

Most parents find it hard to accept the inevitable law of nature that their children eventually grow up to be independent men and women. When they leave home after attending school, many young people experience quite a shock in discovering that their innocence which dependent teenagers had very well without them — for a few months.

Mature parents learn to accept the first signs of independence and develop methods of expression in the process. "But how?" said —

Look. As during the term, most fathers and mothers expect their children to display an increasing degree of self-sufficiency, initiative and responsibility. They feel that these are good qualities and should persist. For some strange reason, however, a considerable number of parents suddenly leave the obvious implications of power and influence for their rapidly developing teenagers.

A common sign of this is the desire to be more and do more to determine and establish without corresponding parental development or assume the right to establish standards of their own.

Because they look a sense of responsibility upon themselves as their sons and daughters grow up, most parents feel that they must give the contemplated marriage of one of their children a blessing. And if the child of a Christian family of parents is to be married, the parents' blessing is often sought.

But what if the parents

do not like the girl?

Or the boy?

Or the girl?