What Can We Do To Help Our Children's Studies?

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

Another vacation period has come and gone, so the children are back at school once again. We have five, two in high school and three in the grades. Lately there's been so much writing and talk about the need for better education that some of us parents are worried. What can we do to help our children in their studies? Naturally, we want the best for our children.

Do I detect a sigh of relief in your opening line? As the saying goes, "School days are the happiest days of your life — provided all of your children are old enough to be in school."

It's quite understandable that among American mothers, Labor Day has acquired a symbolic significance not included in the thought of its founders — the barbarian invasion will be stemmed for another nine months as weary homemakers hurry to confide their seemingly tireless charges to the care of the educational experts.

Of course once the excitement and confusion normally associated with getting started have subsidized, serious parents are bound to ask the questions you raise. Recognizing the importance of a sound education for the future welfare of their children, they willingly support good teachers and schools.

But they are also sufficiently realistic and practical-minded to realize that our school system can't accomplish this complex task without parental support. What can parents do?

Without pretending to be exhaustive, perhaps the following points will call attention to the major aspects of their needed contribution. First, parents should analyze their own attitudes toward education. Before God, the education of their children remains their primary obligation. A formal educational system becomes a necessary means under modern conditions, yet parents have the primary responsibility for seeing to it that their children have adequate opportunities for learning and make use of them.

In the practical order this means that parents do not fulfill their obligations merely by confiding their children to good teachers. Not only is the educational process not confined to the school, but the school itself cannot accomplish its purposes alone.

The child's world forms a whole, of which school, family, and society are different aspects. If they are mutually confusing, contradictory, or unsupportive, the child will not receive a balanced formation.

Second, because parents have direct authority over their children, it is up to them to make their social and familial environment conducive to serious study and self-development. This is particularly true during the grade and high school periods, since most children at these stages lack the experience and motivation required to tackle the difficult job of acquiring an education efficiently. As the Ancients noted, "Learning maketh a bloody entrance" so we cannot expect children to take to the process without encouragement and direction, particularly from the persons they love and admire.

Third, it follows that parents must prudently regulate and control the social life of their children. Many thoughtless or neurotic parents anxiously promote the premature social involvement of their children by arranging numerous dances, parties, and other occasions for dating. This absurd parental activity both ignores the obvious facts of life and creates an environment little conducive to serious study.

Fourth, the order and atmosphere of the family should encourage children to study. There should be a time and place for homework, under definite parental supervision or control. It should be taken as a matter of course, that is, without arguing, that radio, TV, and telephone conversations are absolutely forbidden during this time.

Parents should also make a rapid check of completed homework assignments since some young people have an amazing ability to kill time while pretending to study.

Fifth, young people should be encouraged to read and to pursue intellectual hobbies or interests not necessarily related to their classwork. Parents can do a great deal to stimulate such interests by supplying suitable books and magazines, by discussion and conversation, and particularly by example.

May Offer Mass In Two Rites

Garrison — (RNS) — Three Franciscan Friars of the Atonement (Graymoor) Friars have received from the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Church at Rome the rare privilege of bi-ritualism. Although they are of the Latin Rite, they may now celebrate Mass in the Byzantine Slavonic Rite as well. Left to right: Fathers Conrad Leake, S.A., and Paschal Angell, S.A., two of the new bi-ritual priests; the Very Rev. Angelus F. Delahunt, S.A., Superior General of the Graymoor Friars; Bishop Nicholas T. Elko, Apostolic Exarch of the Byzantine Catholic Exarchate of Pittsburgh; Father Bartholomew Paytas, S.A., pastor of St. Mary's Hungarian Byzantine Catholic church, Duquesne, Pa., who was the first member of the Graymoor community to enter the Byzantine Rite; and Father Jude Tarantino, S.A., the third new bi-ritual priest.

Tragedy In A Tenement

Cloister In The Slums

New York—(NC)—A sisterhood began by an Irish immigrant girl who was shocked by society's neglect of the sick poor in tenements here marked its 50th anniversary at a ceremony in St. Patrick's cathedral.

The immigrant, Mary Walsh, is rated as New York City's first visiting nurse. Her work in caring for the penniless poor in their homes blossomed into the Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor.

The life of Miss Walsh, employed as a laundress for a wealthy family, was changed when she saw a tragic scene.

At the plea of a neighborhood child, she entered a tenement near the one in which she lived alone.

There she found a desperately ill young mother on a straw pallet, her newborn infant dead on the floor beside her and her three other small children huddled in terror in a corner.

The father was in prison. There were no furnishings and no food in the dwelling.

Miss Walsh cared for the family, and lost her job as laundress while doing so. She begged for money and food to help the family through its crisis.

Enlisting the aid of a woman companion, she began to travel about the slums helping the sick. The two women took in washings to support themselves and to buy medicine and food for their patients.

In 1885, two more women joined them. In 1902, an organization of volunteers started to help raise funds. The four women were legally incorporated as the Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor in 1904, and in 1910, they were recognized by the Church as a religious community affiliated with the Dominican order.

Mary Walsh died in 1922 when she was known as Mother Mary, Mother General of the community. The Sisters now have 11 congregations and 464 members in seven cities: New York, Boston, Cincinnati, Denver, Detroit, St. Paul and Columbus, Ohio.

Cardinal Spellman presided Sept. 24 at a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving in St. Patrick's cathedral. Attending the Mass was the last surviving member of the group of founding Sisters of the community, Mother Mary Reginald.

Philippines

Huks Step Up Terror Raids

Manila — (NC) — Philippine authorities are expressing concern at what appears to be a resurgence of armed communist activity less than 100 miles from Manila.

A rash of killings has centered in the central Luzon provinces of Tarlac and Pampanga, home of the Hukbalahap movement. Philippine armed forces authorities take this as an indication that the communist movement may be turning again from the "parliamentary" struggle to armed rebellion.

THE VICTIMS of the recent assassinations were landowners or former Huks who had defected from the movement.

The Hukbalahaps were communist-led guerrilla forces which operated against the Japanese during the occupation of the Philippines in World War II. After the war, the Huks returned to their guerrilla activities, this time against the Philippine government.

In 1951 they came very close to taking control of Manila and the nation. At that time, however, the skillful and dynamic leadership of the late President Ramon Magsaysay, then Secretary of Defense, effectively broke the morale of the Huks and reduced their power to a minimum.

After that it was generally assumed that the communists had put aside the idea of armed activity in the Philippines, and had decided to concentrate on what has been termed "the legal and parliamentary struggle."

Now, however, as many thousands of Central Luzon inhabitants are suffering from the destructive floods which inundated the region during the month of August, the Huks have chosen to act again. Striking with silent swiftness, they have instilled fear into local residents by threatening to liquidate those who remain hostile to the communist movement.

At present, a Philippine constabulary force of 2000 men is covering the Mount Arayat area in the province of Pampanga in an effort to capture the "liquidation squad" which is terrorizing the region. The army's task is difficult, however, because the mountainous terrain, jungle swamps and vast sugar plantations offer the Huks ideal cover for their activities.

Refugee Mother Wins Civil Defense Award

Washington — (RNS) — A Catholic mother who escaped from behind the Iron Curtain a decade ago by carrying her infant child in her arms for two days through rugged mountains on the Czechoslovak-German frontier has received a special citation from Civil and Defense Mobilization Director Leo A. Hoegh for her work in the U.S. civil defense program.

Mrs. Charles Vachal is Civil Defense Director at Waldport, Ore., where she now lives. She also is civil defense chairman for the Lincoln County Catholic Women and the Archdiocesan council of Catholic Women.

SHE IS A member of the Lincoln County Red Cross and holds a 750-hour badge for voluntary service in the Ground Observer Corps.

Mrs. Vachal recently has been appointed to the U.S. Civil Defense Council, an organization of local civil defense directors, and attended its meetings at Minneapolis Sept. 19-23.

Her husband escaped from Czechoslovakia shortly after the Communist takeover in 1948 but she was unable to accompany him because of impending childbirth. Seven months later, she took the baby and for two days and nights traveled the dangerous route through the mountains on foot. She was re-

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