

Why Don't Husbands Want To Take Their Wives Out?

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

We're the proud parents of it, and though we have to manage carefully, we do all right at our income. I love my husband, children and home, but sometimes, Father, I would just love to get a break and go out with my husband. He hates to get dressed up and go out. Am I wrong in wanting to spend time away from home with him? Housework and children are very combining — I'd just like a break once in awhile.

Marriage is a puzzling partnership. In some matters it works just as the partners' tastes differ radically, like the marriage in the old nursery rhyme: "Jack Sprat could eat no fat, his wife could eat no lean, and to bewitch the both of them, they licked the platter clean." I guess we were made to memorize that one to show that differences can be helpful as well as disruptive.

But the marriage partnership also calls for some agreement in likes and dislikes. The elements that constitute successful life together are seldom neatly divided into an "I" and a "you" and a "we." Sometimes the partner seems to offer only one or the other — and sometimes it's empty.

Yet the different needs of both partners must be met to some degree or the partnership will be weakened.

YOUR PROBLEM is a relatively common one in America. "Gone with the Wind" and "The Great Gatsby" have been changing rapidly, and this has been associated with new definitions of marital roles and expectations. Most wives have been led to expect more companionship from their husbands than formerly, and, in many ways, through past training and experience, are better prepared to offer it.

At the same time, their husbands want to be separate from them. From the home during most of the day. When they return in the evening they are content to relax after a good meal and feel little inclination to venture out again. Being home is a change and they like it — for a few hours in the evening.

Hence "dressing up and going out" has quite different meanings for the average husband and wife. To the wife it means a chance to be out of her "uniform" and get away from her workbench or office for a brief "break." It offers her a change of scenery, a momentary pause from the countless routine, infant

and child-centered distractions that preoccupy her days and nights. It is also an opportunity for her to resume contact with the adult world she once knew and in which her husband moves daily.

As I have indicated, men are not inclined to see it that way. After a few years of marriage, their major problem is inertia — once you get them into orbit, however, they proceed very well and generally admit they've enjoyed going out. The problem is in the take-off. How do you get them off the ground?

Some will respond if they are made to see that their refusal is thoughtless and selfish. Men are queer animals, they tend to take their wives and home pretty much for granted — as they should in some respects — but they are not willing to be taken for granted themselves.

They see their own needs clearly, yet are slow to reflect on the needs of others. Wives have to spell it out for them, as a rule, and in this matter of going out, it is usually necessary for wives to take the initiative in laying plans or making definite commitments that involve going out. Many husbands don't really object to being trapped in this way, though reserve the right to grouse about it just to prove their independence.

Some wives have themselves to blame for their husbands' attitudes in this regard. When the babies started arriving, they became so involved that they refused to make the effort to go out, with the result that their husbands either learned to find suitable entertainment without them or fell into the habit of staying home.

Particularly when the first baby arrives, some young wives make such an affair of either finding a sister or taking the baby with them that their husbands finally drop the whole matter as a nuisance.

No, June, you're not wrong in wanting to go out with your husband now and then. If he doesn't appreciate your need, arrange to have him take care of the children for a few afternoons on Saturday or Sunday while you're away. The experience may help him understand your point of view. Husbands sometimes forget how confining a home with small children can become.

All couples should reflect that even the largest family

is essentially reduced to the two people with which it started. Unless partners maintain the spirit of companionship with which they begin, the



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long period of the "empty nest" will find them doing each other alone with little in common but their residence.

Husbands and wives can grow apart as well as together while raising their children. If they have any foresight they will not take their companionship for granted during the busy years.



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Parents' Course Opens At St. James Hospital

Hornell — A course in Parenthood Education, the outgrowth of Natural Childbirth classes which originated in St. James Mercy Hospital ten years ago, began in the hospital Tuesday at 7:45 p.m.

The Parenthood Education course is designed to prepare prospective mothers and fathers for the responsibilities which soon will be theirs.

IN ANNOUNCING this week's opening of the course, Sister Theresa Mary, obstetrical supervisor, said:

"Universities, colleges and high schools offer adult classes in science, modern languages and other fields to prepare the individual for his life work. We are offering prospective parents this special course to prepare them for the most important aspect of their lives."

Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on helping the mother in helping herself so that parenthood will be a happy experience for herself and for her husband. Parent classes aid the prospective mother and father in mutual appreciation of the value of preparation before the baby is born and promotes the idea of sharing parenthood."

Natural Childbirth classes originated in St. James Mercy Hospital in 1950 under the direction of Sister Mary Valerian. The goals attached were rewarding to expectant mothers and to the medical and nursing staffs. However, as time went on the hospital became aware of the need for classes which would include information for

prospective fathers as well as mothers, so the parents' classes were instituted.

At the first meeting of the course Tuesday evening, a film entitled "From Generation to Generation" was shown.

The series of classes is being taught by Sister Theresa Mary, assisted by the student nurses of St. James Mercy Hospital.

Miss Lenahan Requiem Offered

Funeral Mass for Miss Marie Lenahan was offered by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. George V. Predmore in Holy Apostles on Friday, Nov. 4. Rev. Edward E. Steinkirchner was in the Sanctuary. Miss Lenahan, 140 Cameron St., died Nov. 1, 1960.

SHE IS SURVIVED by a sister, Mrs. Thomas (Julia) Plante; two brothers, Vincent J. and Thomas J. Lenahan; several nieces and nephews.

Blessing at the grave in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery was given by the Rev. John E. Roach. Arrangements by Joseph A. Murphy Funeral Home.

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