

## Father Must Match Mother's Interest In Raising Children

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How can a mother raise children, particularly teenage boys, without the help of her husband? We're married 17 years, and have 6 children. My husband returns from work quiet and sullen, eats his meals, and retires by himself to read or watch TV. Our oldest boys are doing poorly in school, can't even hold a summer job, and quit the Boy Scouts, but he ignores them or digs at my attempts to help. What can I do?

Your letter describes a man who apparently should never have married, at least, not in our society. He obviously does not enjoy family life, and would probably be much happier living in a bachelor's quarters.

According to some reports, communes established by the Chinese Communists offer an ideal set-up for such men since husbands and wives live in separate barracks, come together only about once a week, and hand their children over to trained nurses or teachers provided by the state.

Of course some people will question how these children will turn out, but then, many children raised in Western families apparently aren't turning out too well either!

All joking aside, you do face a serious family problem, and there's sufficient evidence that the situation has already caused considerable harm to the older children. Failure in school by normal students, inability to hold summer jobs, and lack of stability in remaining on teams or belonging to organized groups, are all clear indications that children are not being prepared to meet the routine demands of life.

Your children are obviously headed for frustration and unhappiness, so you have reason for concern.

Parents must avoid two extremes. Perhaps as the result of increased leisure, affluence, and the misinterpretation of recent findings related to child development, there exists a tendency to exaggerate the significance of parental influence on the long range, over-all character formation of their children.

A far cry from those hot-house "hoverers," however, is the parent who confines his parental role to procreation and economic support. For rather obvious situational and psychological reasons, fathers in our society are more inclined than mothers to define their parental roles in this manner.

What can you do? Although it would be helpful if you could consult a marriage counselor as a couple, you have probably written to me because such service is not available. Hence, I suggest the following steps.

He has no choice in this regard. His obligations do not depend on his personal likes and dislikes. He has chosen to become a father, and some day he must stand before his Heavenly Father to explain what he has done with the children confided to his care.



Chances are your husband wishes to save his soul, but he's probably convinced himself that he's doing all that is required—the rest is your job. Remind him that the responsibilities of parenthood are defined by the work to be accomplished. Whether you are adequate or not, whether he loves you or not, is beside the point—the children are in trouble and he must do what he can to remedy the situation or face the charge that he has failed in his most sacred obligation, for his fatherhood involves human lives, and the Author of Life will demand a reckoning.

In the second place, I suggest that since his failure is longstanding and perhaps not likely to be remedied, you take over full charge of raising the children.

In situations such as you describe, it sometimes happens that mothers fail because they do not accept reality, that is, they keep looking to their husbands for help that never comes, instead of facing the unfortunate facts and assuming full responsibility themselves. Children are quick to take advantage of a situation in which nobody is really in charge.

If your husband refuses to cooperate, step in with confidence, and assurance as if the entire raising of the children depended on you. The older boys are probably beyond your direct control, but you can definitely handle the training of the others if you face the fact that the job depends entirely upon you.

Although your family situation is tragic, remember the sacrament of matrimony provides you with this supernatural strength you need to meet all the demands of your vocation.

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### Three Generations' Broadcast

Three generations of the Hummel family will take part in Holy Family Sunday's radio Rosary broadcast. The WSAY 7 p.m. program will include Mr. and Mrs. Otto Hummel (right), their son, George (left) with his family Jean, his wife, Nancy and Ruth, as also Mr. and Mrs. Hummel's two more daughters, two more sons and 12 additional grandchildren.

### Graphic Catechism

## Justice Yes, Pedro No

Lima, Peru — Nine-year-old Manuel is a hero among his classmates today for having saved his enemy, Pedro, from being blown to smithereens by Father John J. Lawler, a Maryknoll Missioner here.

Since Lima school children celebrate the end of the school year with fireworks, it wasn't long before Manuel came running to the rectory crying because Pedro had burned his new trousers by throwing firecrackers at him.

Father Lawler hastened to the scene of the crime and confronted the culprit. Solemnly, the New Bedford, Mass., Maryknoller dug into his cassock and pulled out a giant firecracker confiscated earlier that morning.

As a crowd of children gathered around the place of execution, he placed the ex-

plusive in Pedro's back pocket and prepared to blow the pants-burner to kingdom come. Mouths gaped open and a hush fell as the end approached.

Suddenly, Manuel who had been enjoying the prospects of being freed forever from such explosive attacks, remembered something he had learned in the parish school.

"Can I forgive him?" he spluttered.

"You're the only one who

can," replied the grave executioner, striking a match with a dramatic flourish.

"I forgive him!" he cried. "I forgive him!"

There followed an embrace such as Peru has never seen, with all the school children roaring their approval.

And now who are the best buddies in St. Rose of Lima schools? Manuel and Pedro, of course.

### Daily Paper Cites Nun

Miami — (NC) — A Dominican Sister who has a major role in the Miami diocese's relief efforts for the 30,000 Cuban refugees here has been named one of Dade County's outstanding women.

The selection of Sister Miriam was made by the Miami Daily News, the evening daily news-

paper here. Dade County embraces Greater Miami.

Sister Miriam, one of six women cited by the newspaper, was praised for her wise dealing with hardship cases. "There is a constant stream of bewildered, unhappy, hungry, uprooted people who appeal to the center," the newspaper noted.

## Pope To Update Labor Tenets

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII announced that he will issue a document next May to mark the 70th anniversary Novorum of Pope Leo XIII, which ranks among the outstanding papal pronouncements on social and economic problems.

He said the new document will confirm "the constant solicitude of the Church not only in regard to this or that point of the social order to be established but to its entirety, as the times in which we live seem to demand."

The Pontiff made the announcement at a year-end audience for foreign diplomats accredited to the Holy See. The audience was attended by envoys from 42 countries who presented New Year greetings to the Pope.

POPE JOHN, speaking in French, said he hoped that 1961 would be a year of grace and blessing to mankind.

He said it filled him with anxiety when he thought of "the problems of peace and active concord among peoples" and realized that a long road was still ahead to put "true progress everywhere at the service of man, considered in his spiritual and material needs."

The Pope said the Church ardently desires the benefit of social and international peace and will endeavor to promote it with her teaching, exhortations and work.

Although the present time is "not without uncertainties and reasons for anxieties, the Pontiff declared, "We rather like to dwell, as a new year dawns, on what invites confidence and hope."

An address in reply to the Pope's talk was given by Joseph Kripp, Ambassador from Austria and dean of the diplomatic corps at the Vatican. The occasion was the first time since 1949 that the diplomats were received collectively at a papal audience.

### Dialog Mass, Pope's Concern

Pope John's "constant concern" is "the participation of the Christian people in the Mass," he told a congregation in St. Peter's Sunday morning.

His New Year's Day choir included 4,000 white-robed "Little Singers" from 18 nations, with 90 of the boys from the United States.

The Pontiff told them, "How great is our wish that the priests and the faithful should always attend to the preparation and perfect execution of this divine act! Everything should be in perfect order at the altar: well instructed, devout and attentive servers; the priests' sermons brief but penetrating and well-adapted to the congregation, with the congregation listening with the attention and respect due the word of God; active participation with dialogue and chant, and last and above all, reception of Communion as often as possible, so that the participation in the sacrifice may be really complete."

### Movement

#### Slows Down

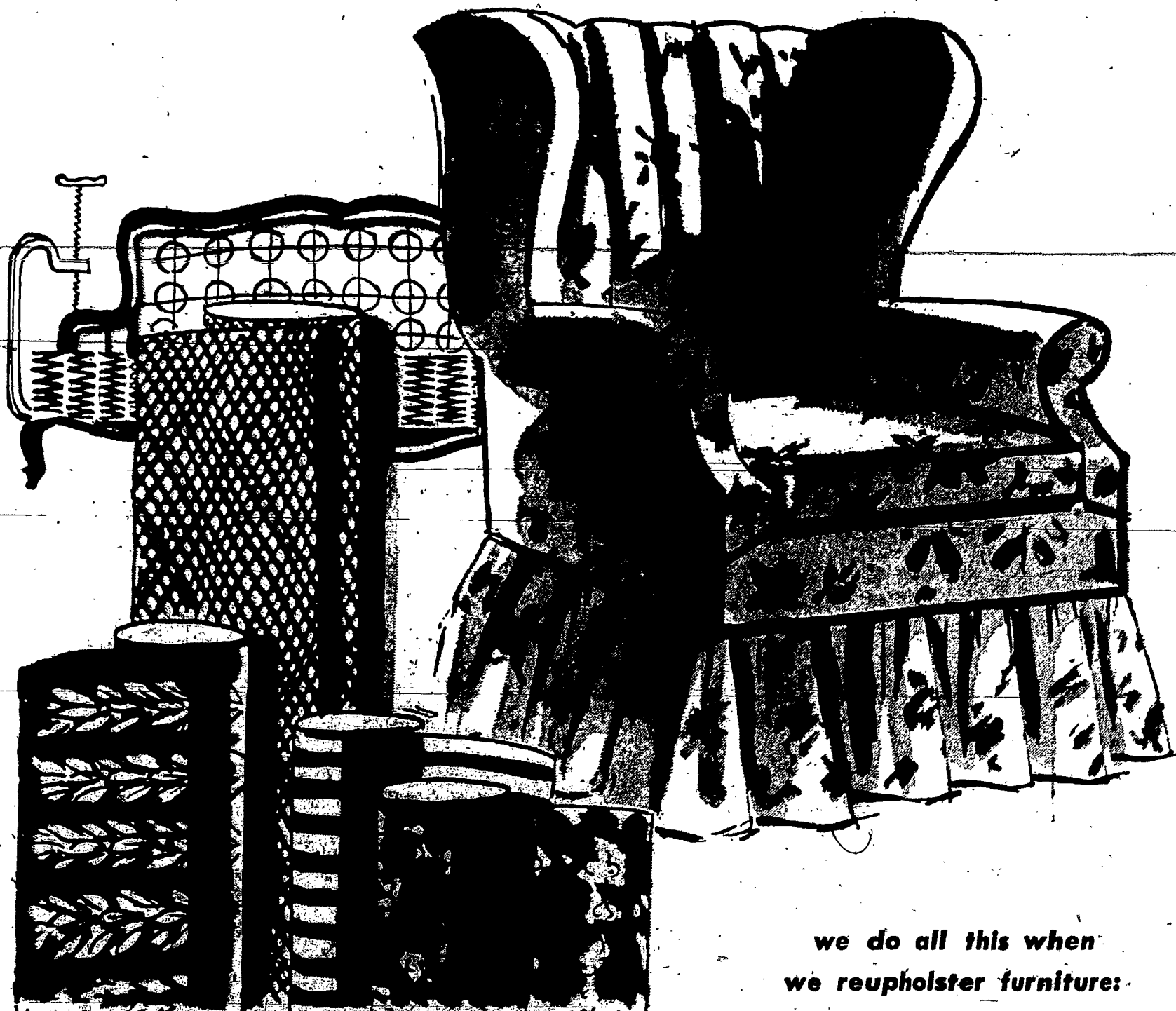
Vancouver — (NC) — Archbishop William M. Duke of Vancouver said the archdiocesan liturgical commission is "somewhat disheartened" with lack of parish progress in the liturgical movement.

The prelate told some 300 persons at a liturgical demonstration here: "We must remember that while this means more study and more devotedness to the mind of the Church, it is sure to be blessed by God with new and greater personal graces."



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