

My Husband Is A Bully At Home But Claims He's Loyal Catholic

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How can you get a man to love and respect his family? Nothing I or our six children do is ever right. We dread feastsdays and birthdays because he'll spoil them with a critical outburst. He keeps the money the children receive for gifts. The 13 and 15 year-old work after school and he wants them to pay board. The oldest is already self-supporting in clothes, tuition, dentist bills, etc. We're weary of being criticized and scolded. Yet he never misses Mass and always says his prayers. What can I do?



If you want a brutally frank answer, Martha, the chances that your husband will change at this late stage are slim. Going to a competent counselor would help, but from what I know of his type, he will never agree to seek such assistance because he will never admit he needs it.

One is never too old to learn, provided one wants to learn. But the saying, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks," is generally true because it's hard to convince him that his old tricks aren't all right.

The real problem your letter describes is the tragic separation or divorce between your husband's religious beliefs and practices and his daily conduct; or to state it better, between his character and the Christian's Model, Christ. The essence of the Christian program for life is found in the commandment to love — God and neighbor.

By word and example Our Lord repeated this message throughout His Life. Our service of God consists in the practice of charity. Without this love in our hearts, all our actions, even the most sublime, are deprived of Christian meaning.

Unfortunately, some people fail to realize that Christianity demands the complete reform of the inward man — of our minds and hearts. Like the Pharisees of Our Lord's days, they regard religion as a set of external rites and practices. If one fulfills these, he's in!

There is no carryover from their beliefs to their daily conduct, because there has been no change in their hearts. When speaking of them Jesus used the frightening term "whitened sepulchres" — they are externally proper but filled with death within.

Although I realize that there are two sides to every story, the detailed account in your letter describes a type well known to pastors and marriage counselors. Such men usually try to put on a good front in public. At home they make no attempt to control their passions. Manifestations of affection and kindness are met with suspicion or scorn.

Far from giving any encouragement to wife or children, they are quick to criticize success and crush any signs of enthusiasm. They have no respect for the feelings of others, even of their small children. They are petty bullies, obviously deriving satisfaction from seeing the weak suffer.

Yet they like to pose as Christians. Besides insisting on how hard they have to work to support the family, they usually point out that women will try to dominate a man if he doesn't keep them in their place and children will grow up to be no good if parents are easy on them.

In reality, there is no genuine love in their hearts. One sometimes wonders whether their refusal to practice self-control has not destroyed their very capacity to love.

What can you do? Since you have consulted your pastor and he has been unable to effect any change, this approach seems futile. Should you obtain a separation? Some would counsel this step, but with six young children you would have to make sure that you could find sufficient means of support.

I suggest you consider separation a last resort, that is, only if the situation threatens to undermine your health or emotional balance.

Although it may prove difficult at this late stage, I

feel you should make a definite attempt to stand up to your husband. You appear to have been far too submissive to deal adequately with such a bully.

Tell him what you think of his actions and make it clear that you intend to defend the children from his mean criticisms and unjust demands. As a wife and mother, this is your right and obligation.

In order to take an effective stand, you will have to adjust your own attitudes and strengthen your convictions in the justice of your cause. If you fold up at his first sarcastic remark, you can't afford to be too easily hurt or driven to tears. And don't plead with him — tell him. It will take more than one scene to make progress, but if you make it clear that you mean business, you may be effective.

Remember the stakes are high. Your children have no one to defend them but you. Since your task will prove difficult, the thought may come, isn't it better to give in and avoid quarreling? I would answer that there are concessions or compromises which, because of their harmful consequences, one cannot afford to make.

If the present situation continues unchanged, even separation may prove less harmful for all concerned.

Pray for courage, and relying on the grace of the sacrament you received at marriage, take a firm Christian stand in defense of yourself and your children.

Jews At Requiem For Christian Friend

Jerusalem—(RNS)—A congregation made up mostly of immigrant Polish Jews attended a Requiem Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Ramiah, a country town along Israel's coastal plain, for a Catholic compatriot who helped to save many Jews from the Gestapo during World War II.

He was Witold Fumekow, from the former Polish town of Lutzk, which is now in Soviet territory.

Among those attending his funeral was Abraham Kitter, chairman of the Lutzk Immigrants Association, who recalled that "our late devoted Christian neighbor" had many times helped to save persecuted Jews from the Nazis during the German occupation of Poland, at the risk of his own life.

Fumekow immigrated to Israel four years ago and settled at Askalon, where grateful Jewish friends had helped prepare a home for him. However, soon afterwards he contracted an illness to which he finally succumbed.

Marine Vet Joins Bolivia Mission

Boston—(RNS)—A former Marine who has worked on the staff at Father Flanagan's Boy's Town is among 12 Catholic priests who left here for missionary work in Latin America.

The group will go first to a language school in Bolivia and then to missions in Peru to join some 30 other American priests under the auspices of the Society of St. James the Apostle, which was founded three years ago by Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, to alleviate a serious priest shortage in Latin America.

Departure ceremonies, at which Cardinal Cushing spoke, were held at Holy Cross Cathedral here.

AS A MARINE, the Rev. Aloisius McMahon of Boy's Town, Nebraska, saw 18 months' service in the Pacific during World War II prior to his studies for the priesthood.

A nephew of Cardinal Cushing, the Rev. William C. Francis, also are among the 120 men who will go to Bolivia and Peru. The missionary society of secular priests was founded by Cardinal Cushing on July 25, 1958, the feast day of St. James. It has received the personal blessing of Pope John XXIII who has himself issued a call for lay volunteers for Latin America.

Cardinal Cushing, as chairman of the Latin American Committee of the U.S. hierarchy, has long been interested in the problem of arresting the growth of Communism in Latin America and revitalizing the Church there.

Commenting on a trip he made to South America last year, the cardinal pointed out that one-third of the world's Catholics are in South America. Within a generation, he said, the 20 countries of Latin America could contain half of the world's Roman Catholics.

Medical Mission Team To Work In Lima, Peru

Bridgeport — (NC) — A nine-year-old U.S. medical mission community will send its first members to the foreign missions in March.

Two of the five men are physicians. A third is a Jewish convert who will supervise catechetical and social work.

Brother George J. Hungerman, F.M.S.I., of Bridgeport, is one of the two doctor missionaries who will take part in his community's pioneer project overseas.

He recently returned from a three-week visit to Lima, where he and Father John Coss, F.M.S.I., superior of the Sons of Mary, surveyed the site of the "medical-missionary team's" toughest slums, where poor and illiterate mountaineers recently arrived in the city live.

Reds Gain In Guiana

British Guiana is a British colony the size of Idaho located on the northeast coast of South America. Of its 550,000 people, 258,000 are of East Indian descent, most of whom are Hindus. There are 76,000 Catholics and 160,000 Protestants.

Georgetown — (NC) — Continued attacks on the Church are increasing the danger that British Guiana will become a communist satellite state, Bishop Lester Gully, S.J., of Georgetown has warned.

The Bishop specifically cited an anti-Church speech here by U.S. leftist, Scott Nearing, in a pastoral letter read in all churches.

"SUCH ATTACKS," Bishop Gully said, "bear a striking resemblance to the attempts of communists throughout the world to smear the Church and the clergy."

The Bishop also noted again the opposition of government ministers to religious education. Earlier he had protested against the bill passed by British Guiana's legislature to nationalize 50 denominational schools, including three Catholic schools.

He had also warned that British Guiana, scheduled to become self-governing this year, might be a communist state under the leadership of Cheddi Jagan, who heads the present

Marxist-oriented People's Progressive party government. Referring to government opposition to religious education, Bishop Gully said that self-government will "be nothing else but a tyranny and a sham" if individual and parental rights are not respected.

Mexican Fiesta Honors Capital's Patron Saint

Mexico City — (RNS) — Fiestas, parades and religious devotions here marked the 100th anniversary of the canonization of Mexico City's patron saint, San Felipe de Jesus.

Solemn Masses were celebrated in the Cathedral of Mexico and in the church here that bears the saint's name.

Special emphasis was placed on Catholic youth participation in the general celebration.

IN HONOR of San Felipe, Mexico's first canonized saint, the Mexican Association of Catholic Youth organized various religious plays, conferences and reunions throughout its 1,500 regional groupings in the country.

The homage commemorated Mexico's ties with San Felipe, who died on a cross in Nagasaki, Japan, in 1597. A member of a Franciscan order, San Felipe grew tired of monastic life some years before his martyrdom and went to the Philip-

Seed Bank

Panchkula — (NC) — A self-replenishing seed grain bank for India farmers has been set up here with the help of funds from Germany's Catholic Lenten fund for underdeveloped nations.

Farmers received the seed free. After harvest, they return a like amount of grain to the bank.



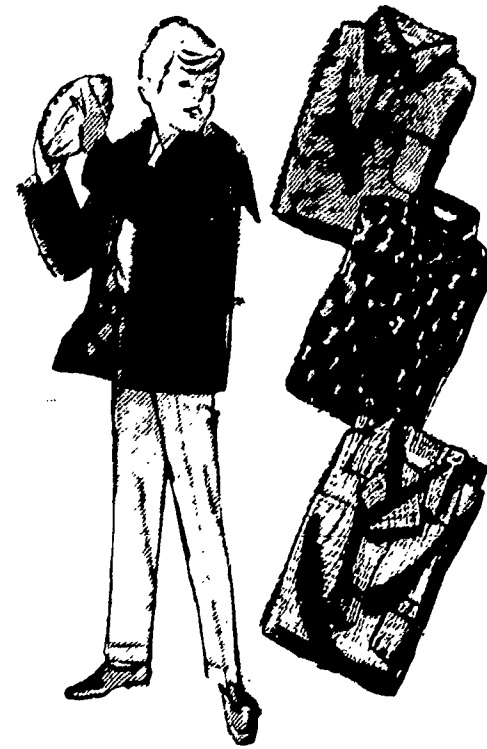
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