

Everybody Takes Advantage Of Me. College Girl Asks What Is Remedy

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My first year in college and away from home finds me with a problem. In the normal process of give and take it seems I'm always the giver, and now I feel that my classmates are taking me for granted. I'm a fine friend when they want something but that's all. I've always been easy going — maybe because I've always been overweight. I love people and doing what I can for them. How can I find a happy medium and stop being the giver all the time?



If I interpret your letter correctly, Millie, much of your difficulty consists in learning to survive in an adult, competitive society. Sooner or later, in one form or another, each of us encounters this problem as we move from childhood toward maturity. It is a real problem because it presents something of a dilemma.

On the one hand, in the true Christian family we are taught to trust others and cooperate. We give freely what we can, knowing that others will do the same. Real love is not calculating. Christian charity seems to require this approach and the trusting intimacy of the family circle normally fosters it without giving it a second thought.

We enjoy doing things for others, "bearing one another's burdens," as the Scripture says, because we have no fear that the members of our family will take advantage of us.

On the other hand, as we move out of the intimacy of the home and start experiencing more impersonal relationships with a wide circle of others, we soon discover that people can be thoughtless, self-centered, even scheming and selfish.

They seem to regard us as things rather than persons; that is, they love us for what we have or can give, not for what we are. We sense when they're friendly, we feel they have an ulterior purpose though they may not be fully conscious of it. As you put

school activities because this might give them an "in" with the right people; to the popular girl because she can promote their social standing and help them get dates.

This procedure may be quite confusing if you're still thinking of friendship in terms of an immature high school group. Almost without reflecting, many older girls tend to use whoever may be available — in class, at work, in social life. If you are easy going, they will take advantage of you, probably arguing that you should know better.

What can you do? Well, Millie, I think you should begin with a little self-examination. To be easy going, generous, and cooperative may be good traits if they are also associated with strong character and a realistic view of life. But they also may be signs of a tendency to take the path of least resistance, of a failure to develop adequate autonomy and individuality based on clearly defined, personal aspirations and goals.

Indeed, they may even indicate an attempt to avoid the rugged challenge of adulthood by clinging to the more protected, relatively aimless view of adolescence.

Is it possible that you are unconsciously refusing to grow up, to acquire adult goals and aspirations? I have a reason for asking this question. You stated, "I've always been overweight." Although there may be many reasons why an adolescent is overweight, I think most girls tackle this problem with considerable seriousness once they discover it interferes with their social interests.

Friendship implies basic equality and mutual respect. If your classmates use you without sharing friendship, it's probably because you have few wider interests and aims in common. Hence either enter their "world" or develop a more self-sufficient philosophy of life enabling you to "go it" alone. Then your giving will stem from personal strength rather than unconscious need for others.

Radio Says Rites Dying In Hungary

Vienna — (RNS) — The Budapest Radio broadcast statistics which it claimed showed that christenings and other religious rites are "gradually dying out" in Communist Hungary and being replaced by "socialist ceremonies."

It said that since the first Communist "name-giving" ceremony was held at Budapest in 1959 to replace Christian baptism, it has been widely acclaimed and copied. Meanwhile, it stated, Communist substitutes have been introduced also for Christian marriages and funerals.

"In 1959," the Budapest Radio said, "only one funeral in 23 was held in Budapest without a priest, but in 1960 the ratio was reduced to one in 12."

The station reported that in the mining districts last year, only one child in nine received a Christian baptism, and about 30 per cent of the marriages among miners were solemnized in a "socialist ceremony."

Pen Pals Link World

Wallerfangen — (RNS) — More than 40,000 pen friendships among Catholics all over the world have been established during the past ten years through the assistance of the International Catholic Correspondence with headquarters in this Saarland city.

Aimed at promoting understanding among peoples, the group is a branch of the Catholic Pax Christi (Peace for Christ) movement. It helps Catholics in all countries to find pen pals with whom they can correspond and thus establish genuine ties of friendship and get acquainted with the way of life and thinking of other peoples.

Negro Convert Totals Gain

Washington — (NC) — One of every eight U.S. converts to Catholicism last year was a Negro, according to the annual report of the Commission for Catholic Missions

'No Further Delay' Latin America Needs Help

Oklahoma City — (RNS) — Bishop Victor J. Reed of the Oklahoma City-Tulsa diocese told a national leadership institute and board meeting of the Catholic Daughters of America here that there must be no further delay in extending the Church's apostolate in Latin America.

In an address to some 300 CDA delegates, the prelate warned that "the enemies of civilization — the enemies of Christianity — are not waiting. We cannot afford to be strangers in Latin America."

Stressing that the welfare of Latin America is closely tied up with that of the U.S., Bishop Reed urged that Catholics do something more than pray to aid our South American brethren.

Cheaper By Two's

Among these 15 income tax exemptions are four sets of twins in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Smith of Kenmore. Mr. Smith is employed by a local printers' firm. He and his family are members of St. Andrew's parish here. Recently the parents and twins were on the Garry Moore "I've Got a Secret" TV program. Left to right (front, Jacqueline, 6; Mrs. Smith, holding John Michael, 9 months; Mr. Smith and Raymond, 3; twins Theresa and Virginia, 5; twins Girard and Mary Margaret, 4. Behind Mr. Smith are twins Ralph and Gregory. Standing rear are Richard, 13; twins Joseph and Harmon, 12; and Robert, 9. The odds are 40 million to one that four sets of twins can occur in one family.

Agreements between the Holy See and the Spanish Crown during the Spanish colonial period were administered by Spain, he added.

However, Bishop Reed said real effort has been made to overcome existing barriers between the Latin countries and the U.S.

The prelate related that the late Bishop Francis G. Kelley of Oklahoma City.

Want To Find Out?

Chicago — (NC) — Two pamphlets outlining the program of the Papal Volunteers for Latin America have been published by the volunteers' national secretariat here.

The Holy See announced the Papal Volunteers program last August. It calls for U.S. laymen to go to Latin America at the invitation of Church leaders there to assist Latin American Catholic laymen in their work on behalf of the Church.

Tulsa had proposed to President William H. Taft a government-sponsored program to bring South American bishops to the U.S. to establish better understanding. However, no action resulted despite the President's apparent interest in the idea, he said.

He noted that the Cuban situation had "reawakened our national interest and national conscience" to the pressing needs of the Latin countries. He said the threat of Communism to the Western world "makes the Monroe Doctrine of greater importance today" than when it was first executed.

Urging the delegates to look upon themselves and the CDA itself as a part of the Church's apostolate, Bishop Reed recommended that they talk with their friends about Latin America which "needs everything—financial, personnel—everything." He urged that they acquire a better understanding by reading more and "giving more attention to the problem of Latin America."

Obeys God Find Joy

Vatican City — (NC) — True joy is based upon obedience to God's commandments. Pope John XXIII told participants in a general audience here.

The Pope proposed the three words "joy, obedience and peace" for the meditation of all who attended the Feb. 22 audience.

The joy which will continue for eternity, he said, "is conditioned upon obedience to the teachings contained in the Ten Commandments, by which we are commanded to honor the Almighty and not to offend him, and by which we are forbidden to harm our neighbor, to kill, to steal or to give false testimony."

Vatican Mail Speeded-Up

Vatican City — (RNS) — Vatican City's four mail-carriers will no longer make their appointed rounds on foot.

They have been provided with motorcycles to speed up deliveries of letters to Pope John XXIII and the other 1,000 or so inhabitants here.

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