

My Wife Pouts When She Can't Have Her Own Way In Everything

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S. J.
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How do you handle a wife who pouts and refuses to forgive? We're a young couple with two children. I love her and tell her so frequently, yet she just seems to look for things in what I do or say that she can interpret as hurtful to her. When this happens, she goes into her little act, and though I tell her I'm sorry, she treats me like a stranger. I'd like to discuss our problem with somebody, but she refuses. What's back of her attitude?



ing her little act? She's using it because it seems to work. It keeps you uncertain, off balance, and consequently dependent. The next time she starts pouting over some pretended hurt, refuse to take her seriously. Don't start analyzing your past actions to find out what you've done amiss.

Let her stew—if there's real cause for her "hurting", she'll tell you; if it's a pretext, ignore or dismiss it, but don't let her feel that you are disturbed. When she finds that her act doesn't get results because the audience is no longer receptive, she'll quit the pretense.

There's another type of pouting which is somewhat easier to figure out. It represents a continuation in adulthood of a typically childish reaction to frustration. When the wife doesn't get what she wants, she pouts—as she did when she was a child. If this tactic worked well with her parents, she may try using it again in marriage.

Of course it will appear in a more adult form in marriage. She may weep, remain silent, or play the persecuted, martyr's role until she gets her way. Husbands sometimes give in to this tactic because it's too much bother not to. This is a mistake. It doesn't help their wives to grow up, and it destroys all sense of partnership, since this must develop through cooperation and sharing.

Marriage is for adults. To pout, to remain silent, to refuse to forgive, are childish ways of dealing with adult problems. Tell your wife to grow up.

ing aware of a tactic she has used all along.

How do you deal with it? Well, you have already discovered that it doesn't help to deal with the symptoms. She goes on pouting or remains cool and unforgiving no matter what you do. Obviously you're using the wrong approach.

Why don't you try ignor-

'No Place For Dreamers'

Cincinnati — (NC) — Lay ed a passport before board-mission work is for men and the next ship or plane for women with deep spiritual for-mation, not for "romantic dreamers."

The appraisal was made by Msgr. Anthony J. Brouwers of Los Angeles, who has supervised training of approximately 100 men and women for the Lay Mission-Helpers Association in the past five years.

"Without thorough and careful religious training, no lay missionary worker, at home or abroad, can be truly effective and rewardingly a helper of God and His Church," Msgr. Brouwers writes in the May issue of Shield magazine of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade.

YOUTHFUL enthusiasm, he observed, often makes a young person believe all that's need-

School Aid Approved By Yale Dean

Washington — (NC) — Dr. Robert K. Hutchins sees "no reason in the world" why Federal funds should not be spent for private and parochial schools.

The former chancellor of the University of Chicago and dean of the Yale University Law School told a luncheon group here that the question raised about extending Federal aid to private schools is "incompetent, irrelevant and immaterial."

DR. HUTCHINS, now president of the Center for the study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, Calif., noted the tax exemption is given private schools because they are deemed to be performing a public service.

"If they are and if it is a service that would otherwise have to be supplied by the public, then there is no reason in the world why private organizations should not receive appropriate assistance from the government," he said.

As to the constitutionality of such aid, Dr. Hutchins said that "we know the Constitution can be invoked on either side of this question because the (Supreme Court) Justices have been careful to leave it on either side."

Dr. Hutchins told (April 13) a luncheon at the Women's National Democratic Club that he thinks Federal standards for U.S. education are "essential."

"IF THIS MEANS Federal control, I don't object," he said. "But if you do object, there are plenty of ways to get Federal funds without control."

He cited the GI Bill which gave thousands of servicemen Federal funds to attend the schools of their choice. "This was the greatest educational expenditure by the human race," he said, noting that it cost about \$14 billion.

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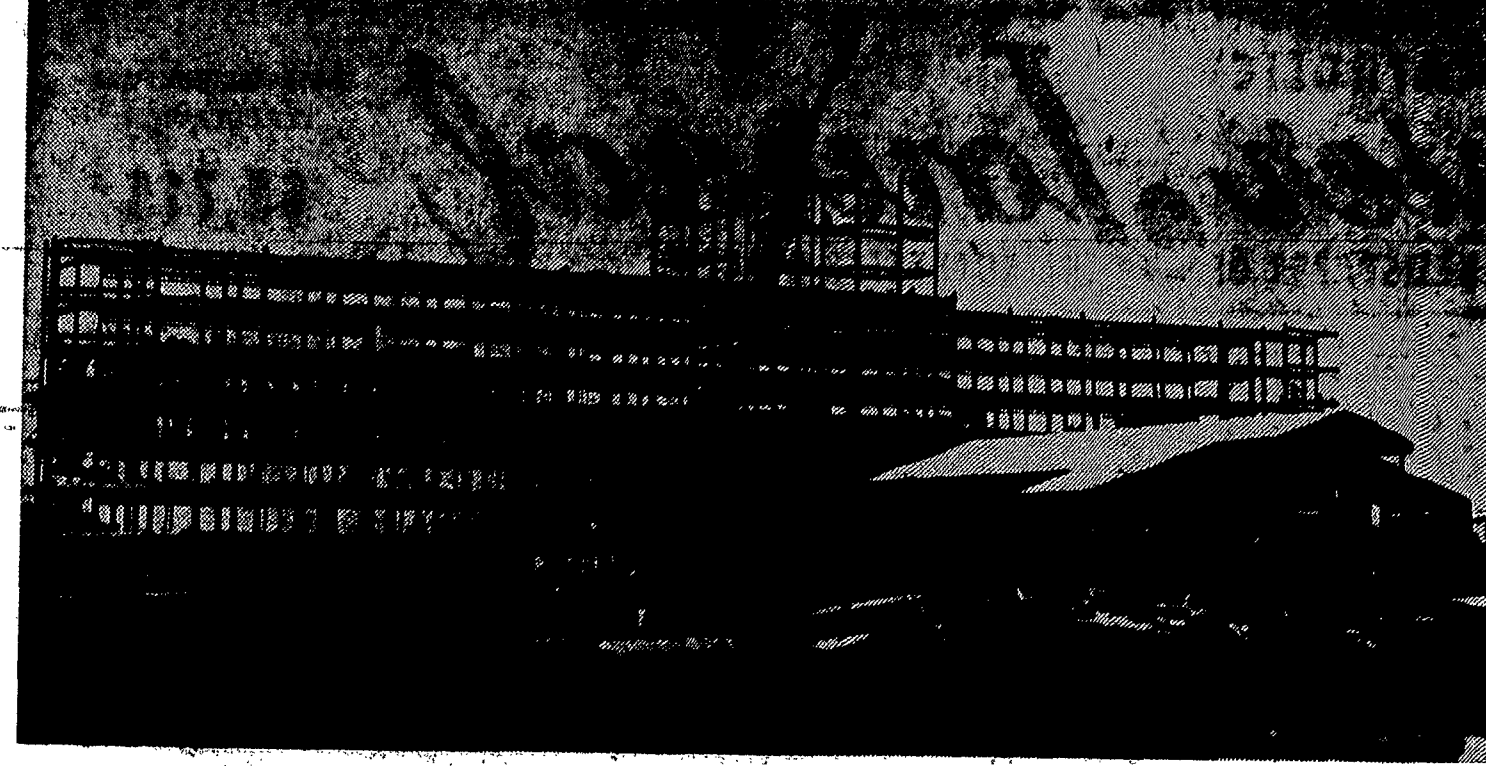
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New Home For Aged Rises In Diocese

SENIOR CITIZENS of the Rochester Diocese will soon enjoy the new four-and-a-half million dollar, ten-story St. Ann's Home rising on Portland Ave. The new building, designed by Robert Hall of the archi-

lectural firm of Barrows, Parks, Morin, Hall and Brennan, will replace the 55-year old quarters on Lake Ave.

2 COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, April 21, 1961

Dirt-Hating Women Needed

Bellaire, Ohio — (NC) — Moral laxity in today's world calls for a "good woman who gets mad at dirt," Bishop John King Mussio of Steubenville, Ohio, said here.

"Give me the woman who will stand up against the evil of the world... and I'll show you the gateway to a new and much more vital modern life than any rocket or man in space could ever provide," he declared.

Speaking of the decline of morality in the modern world, Bishop Mussio told a meeting of the Catholic Woman's Club: "Often when we enter an untidy house, one that is unkept and dirty, where children run around destructively and unruly, we remark that what this house needs is a good woman, a broom-swinging housekeeper."

"And right now that is what this world needs — a good woman who gets mad at dirt."

Red Danger From Outside Warns Priest-Sociologist

New York — (RNS) — One of America's top Catholic priest-sociologists warned that the present danger of Communism is external, not domestic, and that "exclusive concentration upon domestic Communism would be helping, not hurting, whatever plans Moscow or Peking have."

Writing in America, national Catholic weekly published here, Father John P. Cronin, S.S., assistant director of the Department of Social Action, National Catholic Welfare Conference, underscored his warning by saying that "it has become increasingly clear that anti-Communist activities are producing sharp divisions within our nation."

In this connection, he cited opposition to the House Committee on Un-American Activities in the form of Operation Abolition, "the flood of national publicity on the John Birch Society," the "rash of inquiries" about the Cardinal

Mindzenty Foundation," and "numerous reports of an intense campaign to discredit the Foreign Policy Association."

APPEARING IN the same issue of America was an editorial comment which complained that "today, noisy and reckless right-wing groups among us are busy pounding divisive wedges into American society" and "the resulting divisions can easily be exploited by our enemy."

America also reproduced an editorial in which, nearly two years ago, it voiced concern over "the preoccupation of some Catholics with our domestic Communists. 'Too often,' the editorial said, 'this preoccupation is accompanied by coolness toward NATO, by hostility toward foreign aid, by complaints about taxes, by opposition to desegregation, even by defeatist fears of Communist infiltration of Catholic schools and other Catholic organizations.'"

Father Cronin said that what several anti-Communist organizations prefer above all is to cite membership in a Communist-front group, and the next step in this process of guilt by association is to condemn a large and respectable organization because some of its officers have Communist-front connections.

"This, for example, he commented, 'is a part of the indictment against the National Council of Churches.' Declaring that in the 1940's, 'there were no multimillionaires financing anti-Communist education,' he said 'the voices that are so strident today were, for the most part, silent when next ten years may be decisive.' There is, he stressed, 'a distinct possibility that, within a decade, the entire Southern hemisphere may be substantially within the Communist camp.'"

PRAISING THE work of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, Father Cronin said it had done its task "much better than many of its critics during the United Front period" beginning in 1935 and concluding with the Korean War, are inadequate to meet the Communist penetration in such areas as labor, education, government, entertainment and communications was "quite serious."

But at present, he stated, only a very few Communist-front groups are active, Communist influence in the labor movement is negligible, and "except for attempted espionage operations controlled by foreign Communist governments, there is no evidence of current Com-

Washington — (NC) — Auxiliary Bishop Philip M. Hannan of Washington will deliver the invocation at the opening of the 39th annual Association of Broadcasters convention here on May 8 in the Sheraton Park Hotel. President Kennedy is scheduled to address the convention.

On the basis of the information contained in your letter, Frank, I couldn't attempt a definite answer to your last question. Pouting wives, like silent husbands, may have many different kinds of bees in their bonnets. As you seem to recognize, your wife's reaction is quite out of proportion to the particular incident or word that sets it off.

In fact, she appears to be on the lookout for some occasion to begin her act. She intends to pout, and one reason will serve about as well as another.

In this situation, you will gain nothing by being overly concerned about the pretended cause of her difficulty. You may argue, explain, deny, ask forgiveness, and so on, all to no avail, because you're not really getting at the root of the problem. A symptom is not a cause — you have to find out why she's "hurting."

If you stop to think about it, she's acting in much the same way that some girls do during courtship. They pretend to be hurt, misunderstood, neglected, and so forth, in order to focus attention on themselves; and at the same time, by making their partners feel guilty about their actions, they hope to maintain the upper hand in the relationship.

This tactic is sometimes works, particularly if the young men are a little insecure and the girls skillfully use the reconciliation to strengthen the impression that they are the ones who have had to make all the concessions and have been most willing to forgive.

In reality, this maneuver represents a small-scale struggle for power. The girl finds or creates a situation that will put her partner on the spot. This may not be very difficult because many young men find girls' moods and reactions so different from their own that they're not too sure of themselves in the first place. If the girl can make her puzzled partner feel that he is somehow or other the cause of her hurt feelings, she is in a good position to dominate the relationship.

In a sense, she keeps him off balance emotionally, and provided she doesn't overplay her hand, she can have her way, while pretending to be utterly dependent upon him.

Is it possible, Frank, that your wife is trying to use this tactic with you? How did she act during courtship? When did she start pouting during marriage? Did she always react in this way, or is this situation relatively new? Perhaps you are just becom-

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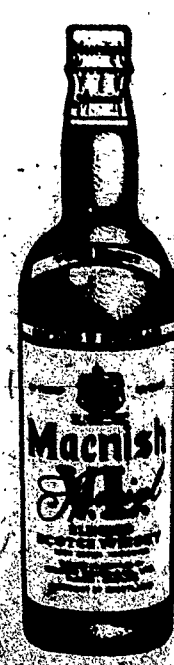


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