

Parents Opposed To Plans Of Future Daughter-In-Law

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

Our 22-year old son, who still has over a year to go in military service, writes that he wants to get married the last of next month. We know his girl is putting the pressure on. She says she's against long engagements and has a good job. We say that marriage normally means babies, our son will have to look for a job when he gets out of service; and besides, she wants a big wedding that will use up all their savings, because her folks don't have that kind of money. What can we do?

From the general tone of your letter, I gather that you feel you pretty well know the answer to that last question. The situation looks hopeless, since your best arguments have made no impression. I'm rather inclined to agree.

Most young people raised in our affluent society aren't disposed to worry about the future. They want what they want — and they want it right now! The idea of postponing present satisfaction for future gains is foreign to their way of thinking. Proceeding with naive confidence that everything will somehow work out all right, they thoughtlessly incur responsibilities and obligations that will dictate the entire future course of their lives.

Experience is a good teacher, but in this case the lessons that it teaches will be of benefit only to others.

Nevertheless, as parents you want to do what you can. Perhaps the situation is not as hopeless as it now appears. At least you'd like to feel that you have used every means in your power to save your son from making a poor decision. What can you do?

In the first place, you should make it very clear to the couple that neither you nor her parents are in any position to lend them financial support. If they marry, they're on their own, and it doesn't take a financial genius to figure out that his army pay, or his beginner's earnings immediately afterwards, won't cover many expenses.

But she has a good job, and their pooled income will more than meet their needs. You must be realistic here and tolerate no nonsense. As you have already told them, at their age, marriage normally means babies. Few young couples are capable of observing periodic continence from the beginning of their marriage without serious strain and the risk of destroying their sense of unity as a couple.

The only alternative is to use contraceptives, which they know is seriously sinful. Be frank with them on this point. This is no time to be



silent. Some young couples indulge in a subtle bit of rationalization in this matter. They enter marriage without thinking through the obligations they necessarily incur. Once they are married, they insist that it is impossible to observe God's laws in their particular situation, so they feel justified in using contraceptives, while artfully arguing that "God will understand."

Be firm in pointing out to them that there is no mystery about the normal implications of married life. They have no right to marry unless they are reasonably prepared to accept its obligations according to God's laws. The fact that other couples, even other Catholic couples, may casually ignore the divine moral law in no way lessens their responsibilities. Marriage is for adults.

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They know the facts of life and the laws of God. Why should they try to fool themselves?

But she says she is opposed to a long engagement? Perhaps she is worried about being able to hold her man, yet their engagement is not a normal one under the present conditions of necessary separation, and if the couple are really in love, further delay will not prove harmful.

Perhaps, like many couples to observe premarital chastity. Remind them that this is no excuse for an ill-timed marriage, for in their circumstances, it will be easier to observe premarital chastity than chastity in marriage. This truth comes as a surprise to many young couples because they fail to realize that the observance of Christian standards of chastity in marriage requires a great deal of self-control and self-denial under the difficult situation of marital intimacy.

Surely, by taking proper precautions and profiting from experience, the normal intelligent unmarried couple can control their impulses and drives while dating if they really desire to do so.

Finally, there is the matter of an expensive wedding. Of course every girl looks forward to her wedding as the major event in her life, but if the display is out of proportion to her well known status and income, it becomes absurd and ridiculous. Whom are people trying to fool when they engage in such conspicuous consumption?

Obviously not their relatives and friends, for these all know better! With a husband in the army and both sides of the family struggling to make ends meet, isn't it silly for a working girl to use all her savings to impress people who will not be impressed?

With such lack of common sense, one wonders whether she's ready for marriage.

New View Advised

New Rochelle — (RNS) — Federal issues should be considered by Roman Catholics primarily from the viewpoint of American citizens, a noted educator said here in addressing the graduating class of the College of New Rochelle, Catholic school for women.

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President, Godparent In London

London—(RNS)—At the door of Westminster Cathedral in London after the christening of his new godchild, President Kennedy flashes a smile indicating he's well pleased with his new responsibility. The infant, Anna Christina Radziwill, is in the arms of her godmother, Countess Potocki, the sister of the baby's father, Prince Stanislaus Radziwill, a member of an ancient Polish noble family. At left is Mrs. Kennedy, whose younger sister is the Princess Radziwill, the infant's mother, and William Cardinal Godfrey, chief prelate of the Catholic Church in England.

FBI Chief Backs Death Penalty

Washington — (RNS) — J. Edgar Hoover's plea here for the retention of capital punishment places him in opposition to statements by those churches and other religious organizations which have gone on record against the death penalty.

In an editorial in the FBI law enforcement bulletin for June, the bureau's director criticized "misguided do-gooders" in this field.

Mr. Hoover said advocates of outlawing the death penalty frequently quote "those portions of the Bible which they believe support their lavender and old lace world where evil is neither recognized nor allowed."

THESE QUOTATIONS, he said, most frequently revolve around Biblical statements that man was created in the image of God. Mr. Hoover said, however, "there are many passages in the Old Testament which refer to capital punishment being necessary to enforce the laws of society."

He said that a "realistic approach" to the problem demands that the public live their lives "free from fear" of "bestial killers."

The FBI chief qualified his criticism by writing, "There can be no doubt of the sincerity of many of those who deplore capital punishment."

One of the most vigorous campaigns against capital punishment has been waged by the Protestant Episcopal Church. In calling upon all its members to support the movement, the denomination's National Council published last March a 51-page booklet entitled "Capital Punishment," which attacked the death penalty as "incompatible" with the Christian concept of love.

Notre Dame To Train Peace Corps

Notre Dame — (NC) — The director of the Peace Corps said here that Notre Dame University will play the lead role in a program whereby 33 Indiana colleges will train personnel for a Peace Corps project in Chile.

R. Sargent Shriver, Jr., told Notre Dame's 116th commencement that the project results from "the first agreement of its kind ever reached between an agency of the U.S. government, a group of American universities and a foreign country."

PARTICIPATING in the project, said Shriver, will be the 33 private and public colleges belonging to the Indiana Conference on Higher Education, with Notre Dame taking the lead and serving as the principal agent in this arrangement.

Under the Peace Corps agreement, he continued, "young men and women from the heartland of America will be recruited, trained and sent abroad to work in that part of Chile where the need and the opportunity are greatest."

"We as Christians must fulfill our obligations to our fellow men," he added, "or God may well permit others to crush us. Either we do these jobs or the Communists will."

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Malta Knights Aid Migrants

Geneva — (NC) — The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (I.C.E.M.) has signed an agreement with the Knights of Malta for medical assistance to migrants whose scheduled departure is delayed due to temporary illness.

The Knights of Malta were originally known as the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem. The military order was founded — probably about 1113 — to care for the poor and strangers in the Holy Land. After the fall of Jerusalem and Acre, the Knights, whose military character grew out of their providing armed escorts to pilgrims, moved to the Island of Rhodes and then to Malta.

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