

## Couples Facing Retirement Age Advised To Build Common Interests

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Although my husband was a top salesman all his life, the small company for which he worked recently replaced him with a younger man and just let him go. Now he doesn't know what to do with himself and is becoming hard to live with. I never realized before how little we seem to have in common after all these years. I'd like to help him adjust to retirement, but he's very independent and apparently has little need for my company. What can I do?

Your letter brings up two closely related problems that changes in our way of life are bringing sharply to the fore. First, although we all like some leisure, many men become so completely geared to their jobs that they seem incapable of finding new interests when they retire.

Second, husbands and wives can grow apart as well as together in marriage, so that the "golden years" of life may find them cohabiting strangers rather than helpful companions.

Because modern society has introduced some new elements in the situation, it may prove helpful to examine these problems in greater detail before seeking a solution.

In an industrial society, with its competitive spirit and accompanying marked division of labor, success in one's job or profession tends to place such heavy demands on a man's talents, time, and energy that his occupation becomes the central or focal point of life, around which all other interests and concerns are oriented.

When retirement comes, as it must for the great majority of people in our society, many feel that they are caught in a kind of meaningless social vacuum. Society is organized for work, and when they can no longer work, they are apt to feel left out, of no account, useless.

This situation points up one of the major dilemmas in modern society. In order to maintain our high standard of living, we must have efficient production. But efficient production demands careful organization and the complete orienting or gearing of life to meet the demands of maintaining efficient production. This is the dilemma of modern society. It is a dilemma that no longer requires all of our productive potential, with the result that hours of work are shortened and retirement at 60 or 65 is inevitable.

How can we direct men, who through past training and experience have been narrowly geared only to work and production, to make humanly developmental use of their leisure, now that they have achieved it? More TV, beer, tranquillizers, or aimless touring surely offer no solution to the dilemma, though at present we have come up with no other.

The second problem, loss of companionship in marriage, may have many causes but usually results from mere neglect.

Husbands become totally pre-occupied with making a living, wives become wholly involved in bearing and raising the children. After 15 or 20 years of growing separately, many partners find they



share few interests in common and can no longer enjoy themselves as a couple. With their children raised and retirement upon them, they face each other almost as strangers.

What can be done? Well, in your case, Martha, it is a little late to start planning for the "golden years," yet it may not be too late. Try to convince your husband that he has retired from his job, not from life. Perhaps you can help him discover some useful leisure-time activities in the parish or community.

Start going places together. If possible, take a trip together. Don't nag or put too much pressure on him, but if he remains independent and uncooperative, refusing to show interest in anything new, you should point out to him that a man can die a good many years before he is buried.

We are never too old to learn something new, to acquire new interests, to make

## Priests Await Lifting Of Slovak Iron Curtain

Toronto — (NC) — The Red-assignment is to inspire young men to undertake missionary work in Slovakia, once the Iron Curtain is lifted to admit them.

HE SAID volunteers for this work will be trained at the SS-Cyril and Methodius Institute in Rome.

"This minor seminary has been made possible in great measure by the generosity of American Catholics," he stated.

Father Joseph Adamec said missionaries from the free world are needed to preserve the Church in that province of Czechoslovakia.

He addressed some 2,000 native and U. S.-born Slovaks at the 26th annual Ohio Valley Slovak Day.

Father Adamec, a resident of Bannister, Mich., was ordained in Rome last year. His special future portends.

## Pity Poor Astronaut

Americans felt sorry for the astronaut last Wednesday when his sub-orbit flight was postponed for two days, according to Father John Norris, chaplain at Industry.

Reason for the pity for Grissom? That morning he had breakfast but no launch.

## Foreign Aid Plan Endorsed

Washington — (RNS) — Prompt passage of foreign aid legislation now before Congress was urged here by the executive council of the Catholic Association for the International Peace.

The council endorsed two companion bills, one dealing with economic assistance to underdeveloped countries, and the other with military aid abroad. Monetary authorizations requested for the fiscal year 1962 are \$2.59 billion in all forms of foreign economic assistance and \$1.9 billion in military assistance.

In expressing its support, the council observed that the bills incorporate the substance of its 1959 recommendations that there be an adequate military assistance program for mutual defense; that the mutual security program be restricted to military assistance, and that economic aid be in separate legislation on a long-term basis, emphasizing that the purpose of the U.S. in giving such assistance is to further social justice.

"It is our conviction," the council said, "that if the motivations for economic assistance to the developing areas are known in terms of our advocacy of social justice, and not merely as a reaction to Communist threats, our aid efforts will be more effective."

"Moreover," the group added, "the condition that countries receiving developmental assistance make genuine efforts toward internal reform, where necessary, and take steps toward securing social and economic justice for their own citizens is a positive measure we strongly endorse."

Quoting the recent encyclical of Pope John XXIII, Mater et Magistra, the council noted the social necessity of rich countries, such as the U.S., to come to the aid of underdeveloped nations whose people exist under "abject, almost unbelievable conditions."

## Jews Applaud Encyclical

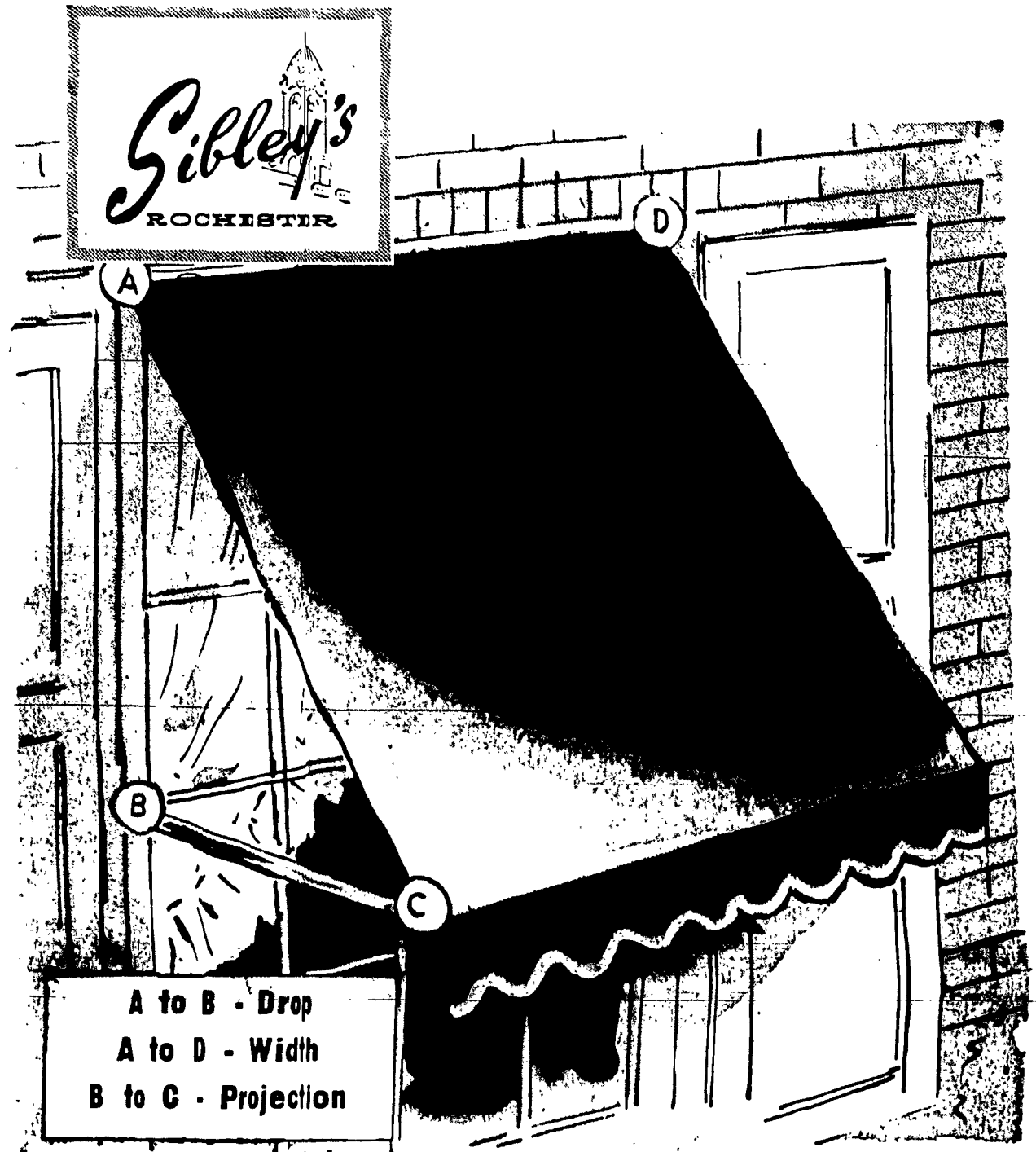
New York — (NC) — The American Jewish Committee has applauded the "Mater et Magistra" encyclical of Pope John XXIII as "a resounding moral injunction to which every man, whatever his creed or tradition, can unhesitatingly respond."

John Slawson, executive vice president, issued a statement on behalf of the committee which expressed "our sincere hope that the high moral principles and practical recommendations embodied in this historical declaration will find their way into the hearts and practices of all members of the human family."



## Basilians' New General, Councilors

New Basilian Fathers' superior general Very Rev. Joseph C. Wey, center, stands at Toronto headquarters of the order at St. Michael's College following his election. Also named at the order's meeting were members of the Basilian General Council: Rev. Blake Call, Rev. H. P. Coughlin, Rev. Francis Orsini and Rochesterian Rev. Robert Fischette. Father Wey is first United States Basilian to be elected general of the order founded in France and with a numerous Canadian membership.



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2 1/2' wide	2.49
3' "	2.99
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