

Husband's Brutality To Wife Indicates Prompt Need For Counsel or Separation

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S. J.
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How do you correct five unhappy years of marriage? My husband complains that I don't keep house right, don't cook right, dress right, talk right, etc. When I do something he doesn't like he hits me, uses foul language, spits in my face, or punishes me in other ways — all in front of the children. We've separated six times — then I'm wonderful and he wants me back, but it doesn't last. What should I do? This treatment has been going on since the third week of our marriage.

I used to believe that such situations could be found only in fiction but have since learned they are far from rare and may be on the increase in our society. As in your case, Rose, the pattern tends to be set very early in marriage.

As a matter of fact, some couples never manage to establish normal marital relationships, inasmuch as suspicion, rejection, or misunderstanding may appear even during their honeymoon, and the resulting tension and distrust provide no healthy climate for developing a sense of unity and mutual concern.

Because the problem generally goes back to the beginning of marriage, it may be worthwhile to take a closer look at some of the factors related to its origin. When the average couple enters marriage, we may reasonably presume that they feel they are in love and can lead a successful married life together.

WHY ARE some of them so quickly disillusioned once they are married? During courtship they apparently found little to criticize in each other, they readily acceded to each other's wishes, and they enjoyed sharing each other's thoughts and feelings. Why do they fail to develop along similar lines in marriage?

One obvious answer is that they did not reveal, and consequently did not get to know, their real selves during courtship. Most people are on their best behavior when they date, for they seek to please. Then too, lovers are not noted for their clear vision.

They tend to see only what they wish to see, dismissing defects in the beloved as either insignificant, "cute," or easily remedied. Some are

Sudan Ousts Missionaries

Kampala, Uganda — (NC) — Two Catholic missionaries have been expelled from the neighboring Sudan, where the Church is being persecuted, according to reports reaching here.

Father Michael Rosato, F.S.C.J., and Brother John Zukelli, F.S.C.J., were ordered to leave the country on 24-hours' notice. No reason was given for their expulsion (Nov. 7), reports here said.

The ouster of the two Verona missionaries by the Sudanese government is the latest of many expulsions. During October, a Dutch priest, an Italian Sister and an American Protestant missionary were ordered out of the country.

The Church has suffered persecution in the Sudan since it won independence in 1956. Church schools in southern Sudan were confiscated by the government in 1957.



willfully blind, carefully avoiding anything that might threaten the courtship, because they feel insecure in the relationship or desire to bring it to a successful conclusion at any cost.

Such lack of realism during courtship may account for many difficulties early in marriage, but unhappy situations like your own usually involve additional factors. In many cases, the harsh, critical, contemptuous treatment accorded spouse or children is owing primarily to dissatisfaction with the state of marriage itself.

That is to say, some partners resent the limitations on personal freedom necessarily involved in marriage or parenthood and blindly proceed to transfer their resentment to their spouses or children. What they are really rejecting are the demands made upon them by the situation of being married, yet rather than face up to their own selfishness in rejecting obligations they have freely assumed, they vent their hidden guilt and frustration on their families.

Following a somewhat similar pattern, some people enter marriage with either no awareness of or intention of accepting the personal adjustments necessarily involved. They assume as a matter of course that others must adapt themselves to their dispositions and are highly indignant if they fail or refuse to do so.

Attempts to discuss the matter or to work out some mutually acceptable program prove useless. There are only two sides to every question—their side, and the other side, which is wrong. Of course they do not state their position so baldly, rather they argue, "Let's be reasonable — do it my way."

From your brief though graphic description of your marital situation, Rose, it is impossible to discover what the real, underlying causes of your difficulties may be. Since the criticism started early in marriage and appears to be so all-inclusive and persistent, I would hazard the guess that it falls into one of the patterns mentioned above.

At any rate, it is quite clear that the situation must be changed, for the actions you describe are utterly beneath the dignity of Christian spouses and should not be

Contest Airs Race Issue

Baltimore — (NC) — Seniors in 646 Catholic high schools throughout the nation will take part in an essay contest on the topic: "What is racism doing to the Catholic Church in the United States?"

Sponsored by the Josephite Missionaries, who specialize in work among the Negroes, the contest invites high school students to discuss the effects of segregation and discrimination on the "spiritual and social development" of both Negroes and whites.

In connection with the contest the Josephites have published a handbook entitled "Studies in Race Relations," prepared by Father Eugene P. McManus, S.J., of St. Augustine's High School, New Orleans.

Father O'Dea said the handbook will also be made available to Catholic study groups interested in race relations.

Teenagers Same Always

Cleveland — (NC) — So you think today's teenagers are the worst ever?

You'd have had a hard time convincing the Egyptian priest who in the year 4000 B.C. wrote: "Our earth is degenerate. Young people no longer obey their elders."

In citing the Egyptian's lament, Sister Rose Angela, dean at Ursuline College for Women here, gently joshed people who take an overly grim view of the "terrible teenagers."

To prove her point further noted in a speech (Oct. 31) in a talk to the Catholic Federation of Women's Clubs, she quoted what Aristotle had to say about Greek teenagers in the fourth century B.C.:

"They are changeable and fickle in their desires, which are violent while they last but quickly over... They have exalted notions, because they have not yet been humbled by life or learned its necessary limitations. They are fond of fun and therefore witty, wit being well bred insolence."



Cardinal Becomes NAACP Member

Boston — (RNS) — Cardinal Cushing of Boston is shown receiving a certificate of affiliation as a life-member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Presenting the certificate is Kenneth Guscott, NAACP life membership committee chairman. George K. Hunton, secretary of the Catholic Interracial Council of New York, looks on.

Bottleneck In Congo

Not Enough High Schools

Leopoldville — (NC) — A lack of enough high schools in the former Belgian Congo is this country's educational bottleneck, the director of Lovanium University has asserted.

"The government has understood this problem and wants to solve it," Msgr. Luc Gillon noted in a speech (Oct. 31) in a talk to the Catholic Federation of Women's Clubs, she

quoted what Aristotle had to say about Greek teenagers in the fourth century B.C.:

"They are changeable and fickle in their desires, which are violent while they last but quickly over... They have exalted notions, because they have not yet been humbled by life or learned its necessary limitations. They are fond of fun and therefore witty, wit being well bred insolence."

until now the bottleneck of the educational system," Msgr. Gillon said. "To broaden the network of secondary schools, to multiply them and maintain their quality remains the real means of forming a sufficient number of young people of higher intellectual and professional qualification."

(In 1958, about 1.5 million Congolese children attended elementary school but only 44,000 attended high school.)

Msgr. Gillon said enrollment at Lovanium University has risen to almost 600 this year. Last year, despite upheavals and intertribal disputes in the newly independent country, enrollment stood at 500.

"We can say that we will welcome 800 next year and that in 1963 there will be more than 1,000," Msgr. Gillon predicted.

Worker's New Goal

Rio de Janeiro — (RNS) — Strengthening and extension of the Young Christian Workers (Jocist) movement in Latin America was urged by Pope John XXIII in a message to its Second World Congress at Petropolis near here.

Addressed to Romeo Maione, outgoing international president, the Pope's message was conveyed through Amleto Giovanni Cardinal Cicognani, Vatican Secretary of State, and read before more than 300 delegates from 84 countries attending the 12-day long sessions.

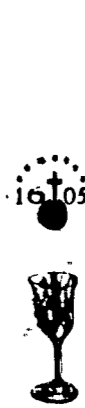
Pope John said it was his hope that that meeting would be a point of departure for a new development of the Jocist movement "first and foremost in Latin America," where an energetic spiritual and social apostolate is called for.

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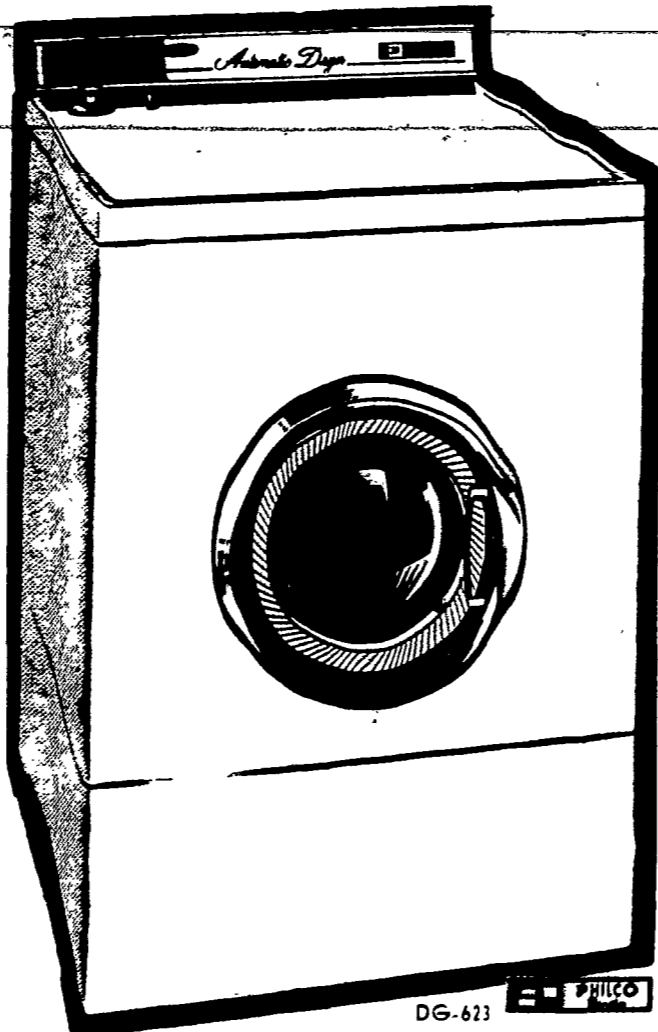


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