

Stamp Collecting Rated Ahead of His Family

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My husband left me and our four children a little over a year ago because I refused to go to work. Although his take-home pay was over \$600 a month, his expensive hobby of collecting stamps took all the money. He said he earned it and it was his. To keep peace, I tried working but couldn't manage both job and home—I have a kidney infection and my last two children died at birth. When I quit working, he left to live with a woman who works. He sends barely enough money to support the children but won't visit them. How can I get him to visit the children, who miss him so badly, or to just come back and start over?

Although your letter offers little information about your married life together, Esther, it does tell us several significant things about the character of the man you married. In the first place, when a married man claims that the money he earns is his because he's the one that earned it, you have a clear indication that this man simply doesn't understand the meaning of marriage.

If the marriage contract means anything at all, it means that husband and wife solemnly agree to share life together—completely and without reservations. In this sense, a married couple can no longer say, "mine" or "yours," but only "ours."

For personal or cultural reasons, couples may follow various patterns, determining who shall be responsible for handling the family income—husband, wife, or both together—yet there can be nothing arbitrary about the essential purposes for which it is used. Regardless of who earns the it or assumes responsibility for handling it, it must be used for the good of the whole family. This point of justice is so obvious that only a person who refuses to accept the basic obligations inherent in the marriage contract could possibly ignore it.

Further, a father who doesn't bother to visit his young children demonstrates such a lack of natural affection and responsibility that we must characterize him as psychically and morally sick. Regardless of the reasons for separation, the parental bond, based on the very nature of parenthood, remains strong in normal fathers and mothers.

When this does not occur, we have a clear sign that the delinquent parent was either too selfish, immature, or irresponsible to accept the normal obligations of marriage. Any normal boy who has reached puberty can beget a child; it takes a man to be a father.

Moreover, any married man who will desert his wife and children to live openly with another woman shows that he has no sense of decency. There is no moral fiber in his character to which one can appeal.

He is obviously too self-centered or spiritually undeveloped to be concerned with what honest people may think of him, or with the scandal he is giving to the children God has entrusted to his care. Incidentally, the fact that he can "get away" with this without losing his job or being rejected by the community is a distressing commentary on contemporary society.

What does all this add up to? Well, Esther, you asked how you might get your husband to visit the children or to come back. I think it should be obvious that in dealing with such a man you have very little upon which you can rely. He refuses to talk to you or see his children, while his other actions indicate that he is not likely to be moved by appeals to decency or virtue.

Hence I would offer the following suggestions. First, you should see your parish priest about suing for separate maintenance in order to obtain legal protection relating to the adequate and continued support of yourself and children. Such action should not be conducted in a spirit of anger or revenge, but by marrying you and having children, your husband has incurred responsibilities that he is not free to escape.

Further, you may as well base your own plans for the future on the assumption that the present situation of separation will persist. There is nothing to be gained by wishful thinking or refusing to face facts—difficult as they may be.

Like many other unfortunate mothers in our society, you must prepare yourself—raise your children alone. Should your husband come to his senses and return to his family, so much the better, but there is no indication that

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Ex Red Soon To Be Monk?

Subiaco, Italy—(NC)—A former leader of the Brazilian Communist party, now living at the Benedictine monastery of St. Scholastica here is considering becoming a monk.

Italian newspapers have reported that Armando Rodrigues Coutinho, who left the Communist party and became a Catholic in 1954, has been at the Benedictine monastery here for the past six months.

At present he leads the life of the other monks in the monastery but has not as yet officially asked to be received as a Religious in the community.

Four Priests For Peru

Jefferson City—(NC)—The Jefferson City diocese will send four of its priests to Latin America in 1962, probably to Peru.

This was announced by Bishop Joseph M. Marling of Jefferson City in a pastoral letter. He also asked lay men and women to join the Papal Volunteers for Latin American program.

He then noted that this diocese has 44 men enrolled in the final four years of theology—the last years of preparation for the priesthood.

that he will do so, and it would be a serious mistake to continue living from day to day "as if" he were about to come back.

Finally, as you suggest in your letter, Esther, it will not be easy to explain this situation to your children. Most children can accept the death of their father without serious damage because they can still cherish his memory and be proud of him.

It is quite another matter when he deserts the family, for they are bound to interpret this as rejection. They then face a difficult emotional problem. Although they are naturally inclined to condemn him, they suffer a sense of guilt if they do—children are supposed to love and honor their parents.

Because the situation is evil, there's no real solution to their problem, but you can lessen its evil effects somewhat by concealing your normal feelings of resentment against him, and at least until the children are older and more emotionally secure, by indicating that the separation may be temporary. You will need a good deal of strength to carry on alone under the circumstances; but remember, Esther, you can rely on the grace of the sacrament to see you through successfully. God does not abandon those who trust in Him.

Women's Way—Talk Marks Nuns' Jubilee

Bettendorf, Iowa—(NC)—Cloistered Carmelite nuns here marked their 50th anniversary in Iowa in a special way—by talking during meals for three days.

Ordinarily the Carmelites may speak during meals only once a year. The special privilege marked the golden jubilee of the Bettendorf community, which was founded in 1911 by two Carmelites from Baltimore.

During the jubilee observance Mother Agnes, superior of the local community, announced that she and six other Carmelites will leave in mid-December to establish a new Carmelite monastery in Sioux City, Iowa.

For one of the nuns, Sister Raphael, it will be the first trip out of the monastery since she entered it in 1919.



Shrine Pictures Scheduled

Colored slide pictures of shrines and other points of interest to be viewed during an April 11 to May 15 tour of Europe will be shown at the Columbus Bldg., Chestnut St., Rochester, Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 8 p.m. Father Alexander Stec, pastor of St. Stanislaus, will be spiritual director of the tour arranged by the American Express Company. Highlight of the trip will be a visit to the Vatican and an audience with Pope John as shown in photo above. A descriptive brochure is available from the Courier Journal, 35 Scio St., BA 5-6210.

Priest Ignored

Facists Take Power

Washington—(RNS)—Mussolini and his black-shirted Fascists came to power in Italy in 1922 because members of the ruling middle class feared a crusading Catholic priest who insisted on Christian social reform, members of the American Catholic Historical Association were told here.

Professor Mario Einaudi of Cornell University delivered a paper based on the role which the struggling new Christian Democratic "Popular" Party played in the tragic twilight days of Italian democracy after World War I.

He said that historians have blamed Mussolini's rise on "failure" of the Catholic Party which Don Luigi Sturzo, a zealous crusading Sicilian priest, established in 1919.

"What failed, rather, was the old political class, in its fossilized rigidity and its determination to use fascism as a way out of the impasse," Prof. Einaudi declared.

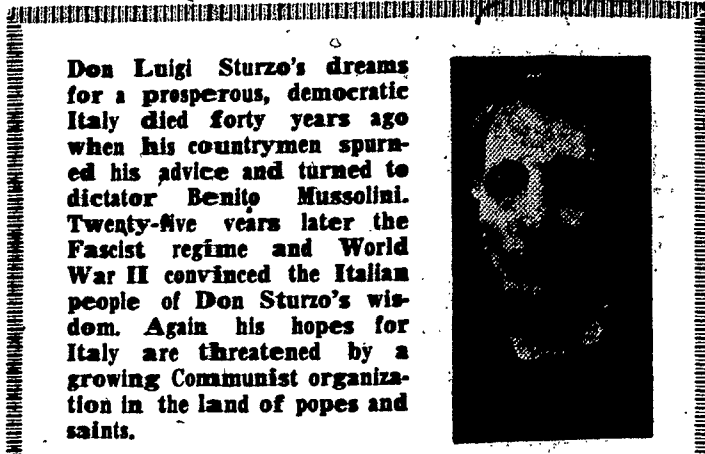
Don Sturzo had established his party to carry out social and economic reforms, in accordance with Christian ethics and Catholic social teachings, after the Vatican dropped its long-term ban on the participation of devout Catholics in Italian politics. The ban, instituted after conquest of the Papal States in 1870, was no longer realistic in 1918, the professor said.

In its first parliamentary election, Don Sturzo's new party got more than 20 percent of the vote and upset the comfortable political majority the ruling liberals had long enjoyed.

Only two courses were possible to save parliamentary democracy at this point, either a coalition of the Liberals with the new Christian Democratic Party or a coalition of the Socialists and the new party, he said. Neither proved possible because Prime Minister Giolitti feared the new Christian reformers more than he did the bombastic, swaggering Mussolini, he said.

"To Giolitti, the views of Don Sturzo, the demanding, innovating, ebullient, intelligent, cultivated Sicilian priest, seemed nothing short of subversive of the established order," said Prof. Einaudi. "He preferred Mussolini, whom he thought to be a harmless, shouting, coarse, illiterate peasant, easy to liquidate at the right moment. But, of course, the reverse liquidation took place."

Don Sturzo was forced into exile in 1923 and it was 22 years before he could return to his native Italy to see the resurgence of the Christian Democratic Party which now



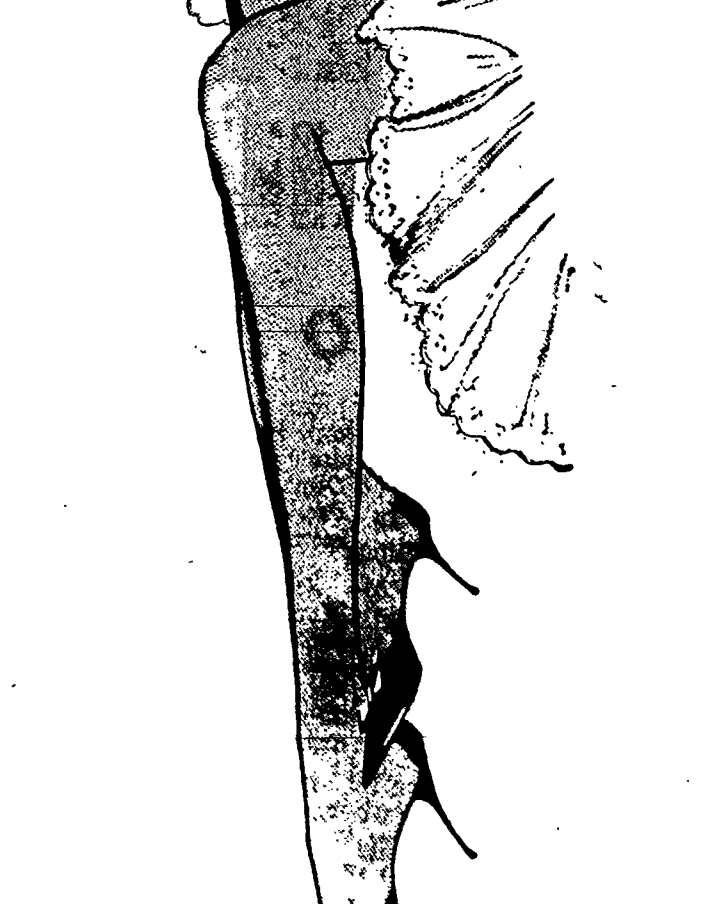
Don Luigi Sturzo's dreams for a prosperous, democratic Italy died forty years ago when his countrymen spurned his advice and turned to dictator Benito Mussolini. Twenty-five years later the Fascist regime and World War II convinced the Italian people of Don Sturzo's wisdom. Again his hopes for Italy are threatened by a growing Communist organization in the land of popes and saints.

has headed the Italian government since the end of World War II. The Catholic historians were told that the refugee priest clearly saw from the outset the error of fascism, that of worshipping and deifying the state. He had tried to save Italy from an irreligious concept of liberalism only to see it fall victim to a party that worshipped other false gods, Prof. Einaudi pointed out.

The collapse of Italian democracy, with all the misfortune it brought Italy, was not due to the Christian Demo-

crats, he concluded, but to failure of the group that had long ruled Italy to see that reforms of the type Don Sturzo advocated must come and that liberalism must be guided by Christian principles. Fearing the crusading priest, they turned to the cunning dictator, he said.

Prof. Einaudi's discussion of the role of the Catholic Reform Party in the twilight days of Italian democracy led to spirited discussion among the historians attending the 42nd annual meeting of the Catholic historical group.



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