

TEENAGERS WANT TO KNOW

Dear Father,

My parents have this terrible drinking habit. They both work five days a week, and on weekends they go to a tavern, so we kids hardly ever get to see them.

When they are home they're usually sleeping, because they're so tired from their drinking and running around.

My brothers and I can never bring our problems to them because they don't understand us and are so hard to talk to. I feel so sorry for my smaller brother especially, because he is getting to the age where he has to look up to his dad for guidance. Do you have any suggestions?

—Anne



how do I know if I cheated somebody or not. When you cheat a person, you are pretty much aware of it. And when you cheat God in the confessional, I think you are rather well aware of it. If we are not sorry for our mortal sins, and do not have a firm purpose to amend them, I think most people would realize this is wrong and that they are making a bad confession.

God never intended to make the sacrament of penance unbearable, and we should look upon it as a wonderful opportunity to tell God how truly sorry we are for our sins, as an opportunity for a sacramental encounter with Christ, and as an opportunity to grow in His love. May God bless you.

Dear Anne,

You are living through one of the most difficult problems that can beset a family, especially where teenagers and smaller children are involved. I wish I could give you a solution. Unfortunately, the problem lies with your parents and unless they want to do something, there isn't much you can do to help them, except to try to understand them.

About the only help I can offer you is a plea for understanding. Drinking is often a symptom of some deeper problem, often a problem of the drinking party finds difficulty coping with. You can help with your patience and charity. Above all help your brothers, with their questions, problems, and understanding of their parents as well as you can.

Try to learn as much as you can about alcoholism. Try to join the AA and Alateen sections of Alcoholics Anonymous. These organizations will help you to cope with the problem of drinking and of drinking parents. You will meet people who are understanding and who will be a great source of comfort to you and your brothers.

son must sincerely confess their sins at least once a year. Strictly speaking, only those who have committed a mortal sin are obliged by this precept. The law that binds strictly is a worthy Communion once a year during the Easter season. This worthy Communion is necessary because of our Lord's words that those who eat His Flesh and Drink His Blood shall have life everlasting. And Our Lord warns us that unless we eat His Flesh and Drink His Blood we shall not have Life in Him.

There's nothing wrong with talking to God directly. But Christ instituted a priesthood and He instituted the Sacrament of Penance. In St. John (xx, 23), Christ makes the statement, "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained."

These words would have been meaningless if there were no specific confession of sins. How could the apos-

les retain or forgive sins without a knowledge of them? How can a priest today retain or forgive sins without a knowledge of them? This is the reason why you have to tell the number of your mortal sins (if you have any), so that a priest can forgive or retain them.

Besides being a merciful judge, the priest in the confessional is also a physician. He has to know the last time you went to confession, so he can make a judgment on your spiritual life; if you have established habits of sin, if you are lax or fervent in your spiritual life, and so forth. Once he has a fair knowledge of these things, he can give you spiritual counsel which should be a help in your striving for perfection and your search to love God more.

If you have a doubt whether you made a good or bad confession, I think the presumption would be in your favor that you made a good confession. It's like asking

Dear Father,

Why do so many guys take a girl out just for fun? In other words, they just use her.

—Phyllis

Dear Phyllis,

Your question is vague, but I presume it has to do with the matter of sex. I think it's very dangerous to make statements that seem to condemn almost all boys — or almost all girls for that matter.

There are some boys who have hardly any moral principles and they openly admit it. They tell you there's only one reason why they take a girl out. But there are other boys who have very high moral principles and wouldn't think of "using a girl."

Many boys go out with a girl with all good intentions but they might get carried away as the evening progresses and as circumstances and occasions present themselves for sexual excitement. A boy may then try something, but if a girl stops him, he usually has enough decency and moral principle to stop. It takes two to tango, and I think every girl should realize this. Many girls put blame on a boy when they actually lead a boy on or at least permit him certain liberties.

The woods are full of good boys, real Christian gentlemen, and you'll meet them. Good people, like bad people, eventually seem to find each other. The conviction of strong moral principles and the wait are both worth it. May God bless you.

McQuaid Grad a Doctor

The University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry will give a degree to the first McQuaid Jesuit High School graduate in the medical school's history at commencement exercises in the Eastman Theater Sunday, June 8.

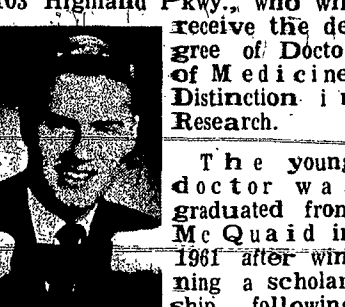
He is Daniel W. Lang, son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Lang, 103 Highland Pkwy., who will receive the degree of Doctor of Medicine Distinction in Research.

The young doctor was a student at McQuaid in 1961 after winning a scholarship following his graduation from St. Monica's School, McQuaid High was graduated in 1954 and graduated its first class in 1958 and has awarded hundreds of diplomas, but young Lang is the first McQuaid alumnus to enter the University medical school and win his degree.

Following his graduation from McQuaid, Lang entered St. Michael's College of the University of Toronto and was awarded a B.A. degree in 1968. At the medical school, he conducted his research on the rate of pulmonary excretion of paralyde.

Dr. Lang delivered papers on this subject before a meeting of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics in Washington in August 1967 and the Society of Toxicology at Williamsburg, Va. last March. Both papers have been published in the Journal of Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology.

On June 23, Dr. Lang will start his medical internship at the New-England Medical-Center Hospital in Boston. He is married and has been living at 637 Richardson Road.



Daniel Lang, a young doctor, is the first McQuaid alumnus to enter the University medical school and win his degree.

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Prayer Weekend Set at Cenacle

The Cenacle Retreat House will sponsor a Prayer Weekend, June 6-8. Entitled "The Contemporary Woman's Encounter with God" the weekend will be an experience in prayer — including films, discussions and time for private prayer and silence.

Various approaches will be included: Small prayer groups, meditation and participation in the liturgical hours.

The weekend will also involve discussion groups on the theme — "Finding God and Praying to Him in the Marketplace."

For further information please write Sister Clara Lill at 693 East Avenue or call her at 274-8755.

St. Agnes High May Queen

Under the title "Mary, Mother of Freedom," the Blessed Virgin was honored at St. Agnes High School at May Day ceremonies May 29. May Queen Martha Bruckel crowned Our Lady's statue.

Father Timothy Weider of the diocesan Secular Mission in Perkinsville celebrated the morning Mass. The school's day-long May Day program was arranged by Mission Club members under Kristine Dorfmann, president.



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Church's Social Role Discussed

Auburn — The role of the Church in social problems was discussed by 34 Protestant and Catholic clergymen from Cayuga County at the First United Methodist Church, Wednesday.

The clergymen lent their support to FISH, a volunteer organization, providing short-term emergency services to Meals On Wheels, providing meals for shut-ins, and the Golden Age Clubs, groups of elderly people helping their peers.

Proposed for further discussion were questions on rural medical service, and isolation of the community through communications breakdown.

The meeting heard from Rev. Carl R. Smith, general presby-

ter of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Rochester; Prof. Paul R. Eberts, department of Rural Sociology at Cornell University; Rev. Ralph Wagner, pastor of First Presbyterian Church; Father Charles Mulligan, assistant at Sacred Heart Church; Dr. J. Harold Warnick; Rev. Richard Worden, assistant at St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Mgr. James Cuffney, pastor of St. Mary's Church.

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- All
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- English author
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- Trick
- Malt beverages
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- Of the country
- Baking chamber
- Protestant denomination: abbr.
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- Unit of work
- Plead
- Harder to find
- Spice
- Cruasesh underfoot
- King of Sodom
- Meteor
- Cover, as with asphalt
- Corner turned
- Otherwise
- Neatly smart in dress
- Car-penter's tool
- Crosby or Sinatra
- Instance
- Help
- Irish nobleman
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