

WEE PALS

by Morrie Turner



TEENAGERS WANT TO KNOW

Dear Father,

The reason for my writing this letter is to express what I feel the church is not doing. First of all, the church is supposed to be the leading force in man's life—but where is it today? It's wrapped up with politics, civil rights, and other issues which it should not be.

It is not stressing the salvation of the soul, and the most important thing of all—that all must be reborn in Christ if we want to join forces with Him after death. But it is stressing charity drives, mission drives, and any other worthy worldly cause its little old heart can dream up.

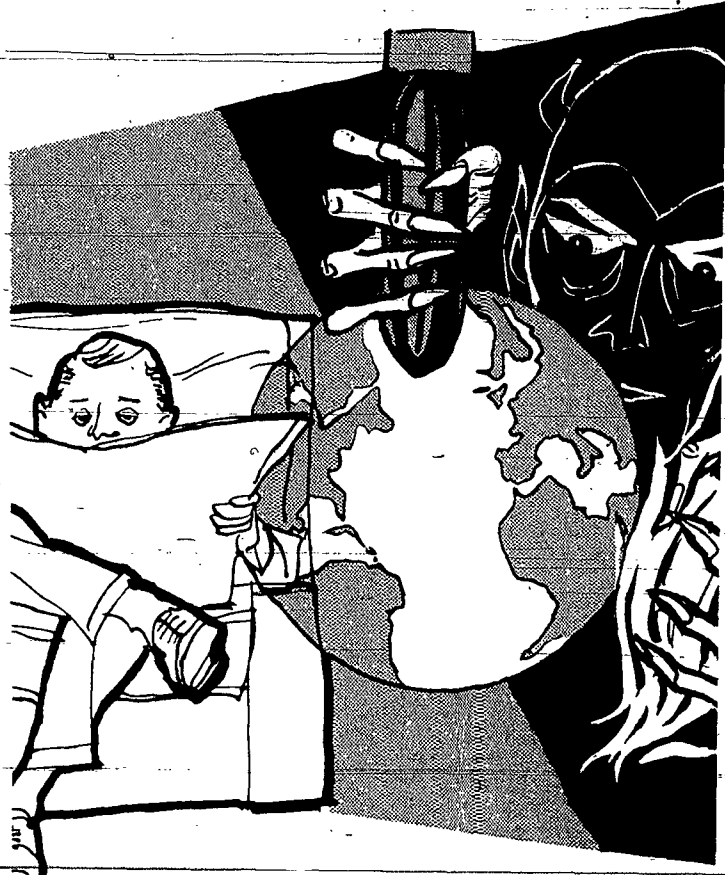
Do you realize what this is making people do? It's making them put a stress on material things and our worldly selves before we attend to our soul's salvation—which is mainly to be reborn and to start a new life. A life, not with God in the background, only there when we desperately need help—and there is no one else to turn to, but a life with God as our one and only reason for living and thanking Him for every breath we breathe instead of asking Him for the extra money we may need for whatever materialistic purpose we have in mind or the church wants.

What people need today is to hear a fire and brimstone sermon which would jolt them into realization. But this is not true of the "modern" church today. It seems to be too wrapped up with the modern world, just as people are, to be concerned with anything as out of date as rebirth.

—Irene

Dear Irene,

I doubt if any priest or bishop enjoys talking about money in church or worrying about it. But it's a fact, of



life that the saving mission of the church can not go on without money. The spreading of the good news of the Gospel, works of charity, upkeep of houses for worship, almost every work of the church needs money. It's that simple.

Many people complain that the church is not active enough in the great social problems of the world, such as civil rights, the poor in foreign mission lands, and in home missions. These are not necessarily "worldly" causes as you called them. They are great works of charity. Charity is what characterizes the Christian. I'm sure you're aware of St. Paul's great passage on charity in Chapter 13 of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. He makes it very plain that if we don't have charity we're

nothing but sounding brass and tinkling cymbals.

Maybe the church is no longer encouraging hell fire and brimstone sermons today but she is emphasizing the salvation of souls as much today as ever. Christ died to redeem every soul and established the church to carry on His work. This is her mission and she is still carrying it on. Her liturgy, her prayer life, her works of charity, her works of penance, every thing she does has this purpose: to glorify God and to help men save their souls. May God bless you.

Dear Father,

When two people are married and one partner becomes unfaithful, does the other mate have to stay married?

If one or the other mate did become unfaithful, what changes could be noted in them? Would their marriage be loveless the rest of the years ahead? And how could one make it up to the other?

—Jim

Dear Jim,

The Church permits a married couple to separate for a very grave reason, such as adultery committed by one of the partners. However, neither one of the two spouses may marry again, while the other partner is living.

I think it would be dangerous to try to suggest what changes would come over a person if he were unfaithful in his marriage. Certainly, there could be some telltale signs, but often times these signs could also have other explanations.

For instance, if one of the partners were constantly coming home in the wee hours in the morning, that might be construed as a sign that the party was being unfaithful. But that party could also be working very late, or could have an alcoholic problem, or so forth. A person could be very uncommunicative or very disinterested in family affairs, but these situations could also have explanations, such as tension, poor health, serious worries about some problem at work, and so forth. So it would be very dangerous to try to give some certain signs that a partner is being unfaithful.

If one of the partners is unfaithful, it does not necessarily mean that this marriage would be loveless in the years ahead. The unfaithfulness could be just a temporary thing; it could be something caused by hurt feelings, arguments, some kind of tension in the home. Sometimes we hurt most deeply those we love the most. So even if we love a person very much, sometimes we might try to repay that person for some hurt, real or imagined, that he caused us. So we go out and commit some foolish act. When we wake up we see how foolish we are and how much we really loved that person we hurt.

The best way to repay anyone we have injured is to try to love that person more and prove our love by our actions, going out of our way to be kind, considerate, helpful. We do everything in our power to make that person happy, to be communicative with the person, to do things for him. The more these actions speak louder than words is certainly a true one. May God bless you.

Dear Father,

If a person is going steady what harm is brought to his friends when he only communicates with the person he is going steady with?

— Penny and Paul

Dear Penny and Paul,

There probably isn't much harm done to friends when a person communicates only with his steady, but there is probably a lot of harm suffered by the person who has time only for his steady. He can suffer social and psychological harm.

For many teens, going steady is a crutch they can lean on because they're afraid to grow up or even meet other people. Going steady constricts one's experience of life and people. It can have a deadening effect on one's interests, especially the demanding interests of the late high school and early college days, primarily in the field of studies.

Many experienced people in the field of counseling and psychology state that going steady often holds up the process of maturity, keeps the personality from flowering as it should, and even leads to selfish individualism.

And, of course, I think you should be aware of the moral problem also. Going steady can be an occasion for serious sin for teens. Too many teens just are not aware of the normal force of human passion nor of the ordinary weakness of human nature. May God bless you.

Shoppportunity

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By Ruth DeMalle



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MOTH MONTHS AHEAD

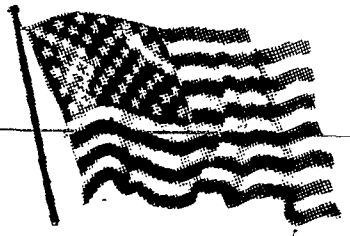
Join the smart ones who store their winter clothes AFTER dry cleaning. It's such a simple way to discourage moths from feasting on your nice winter wools, orlons and other heavies that are so inviting to them.

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