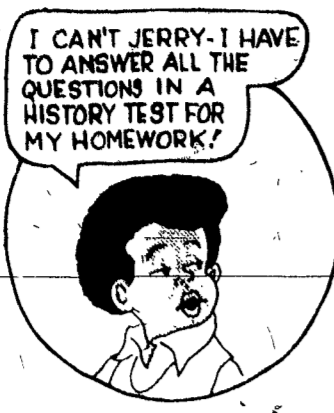


WEE PALS



by Morrie Turner

TEENAGERS WANT TO KNOW

By FATHER MARTIN, C.S.S.R. DEAR FATHER.

My problem is my parents. Their view of life is so much different from mine. The only way to be happy in their opinion is to be successful and have lots of money.

I realize they were brought up in the depression. But this doesn't give them the right to force their views of life on me.

They both have jobs and therefore little time to spend with me. We never have really had a good discussion on anything.

All I want out of life is to do something for the world. When I'm looking for a job, I'm not going to take the job that pays the most money, but rather the job that will have the most direct influence on people.

My parents also think that when you get married you marry for money not love. When I marry I'll marry the person not his checkbook.

I don't know, maybe I'm the problem instead of my parents. We talk to each other, but we don't communicate.

I think that if I knew and understood why my parents think as they do, I would have more respect and love for them.

Dear Susie, Parents are sometimes well intentioned but misguided in their love for their children. Giving a child all the material advantages that they can does not necessarily mean that parents are showering their love upon a child.

The problem of communication between parents and child can be a real one, and I think you hit the nail on the head with your observation that a mere discussion of things is not necessarily communication.

I think part of the key to this solution may lie with you. Have you ever "really" tried to tell your parents how you feel. Have you told them about your ideals, your values, and what you hope to do with

your life? As you say, I'm sure they would like to get to know you better and may themselves be seeking ways to know you better. You can help a lot by taking the initiative in this matter of communication.

Come right out and ask them why they feel like they do. Maybe you will get them to stop and think; maybe they can give you some pretty good explanations, and maybe you can help them to come to see the true values of life.

In the meantime, keep your own idealism, and continue to strive for the values that you cherish now. May God bless you.

DEAR FATHER, The medical profession is producing strong evidence that smoking is injurious to health. In view of this information, is it not self-destructive and therefore sinful to smoke?

Dear Pat, The evidence that smoking is injurious to health is still not absolutely certain. Therefore, it is difficult for the theologians to make the simple moral judgment that smoking is sinful.

Some people smoke heavily all their lives and live to be 90. For other people, smoking seems to be clearly harmful. And what about a person who smokes lightly, a few cigarettes a day? Is that small amount harmful?

If a person were absolutely certain that smoking was harmful to his health and therefore sinful, that person could not smoke. He would have to follow his conscience. Also if a person were told by a qualified doctor that smoking was harmful for him because of some illness, such as heart disease, lung trouble, and so on, that person would be obliged to follow the doctor's instructions and not smoke.

Of course, in light of some medical evidence it probably is a good idea not to smoke, and clearly the young should be strongly encouraged not to smoke, and the old should be encouraged to give it up. But to make a blanket

statement that smoking is sinful, period, would be difficult to justify in theology. May God bless you.

DEAR FATHER, How can a person who refuses to forgive members of his family receive Communion? Certainly his own sins are not forgiven when he refuses to forgive others. Is this a sacrifice?

Dear Pamela, I presume that you are referring to a serious matter here, and not just to a small family squabble. If the person does hold a serious grudge against a member of the family and absolutely refuses to forgive that person then objectively, of course, he would be guilty of serious sin and could not receive Holy Communion worthily. But he may feel justified in his own mind and may not think that he is doing wrong.

There are many passages in Scripture that bring out the gravity of this sin of uncharitableness. St. John says that if any man says he loves God but hates his neighbor that man is a liar.

St. Matthew, (V-23/24) says, "So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering."

The Eucharist is supposed to bind us in love with God and with each other. A man who refuses to forgive is making a mockery of the Eucharist. Pray for this person that he sees the light and truly forgives the member of his family and that he be reconciled with him again in love and in Christ. May God bless you.

Sister Honored By Class of '28

Thirty-two former pupils of the Class of 1928 of St. Peter & Paul School, Rochester, honored their eighth grade teacher Sunday at a dinner at Ridge-mont Country Club on the occasion of her golden jubilee as a nun.

She is Sister Mary Blanca, SSND, who returned to Rochester for the occasion. She is now teaching high school science in Westminster, Md. She left Rochester 41 years ago after teaching here in Holy Family and St. Peter & Paul Schools.

An authority on the history of Catholicism in America, Father McAvoy had written several books in this field, including "The Great Crisis in American Catholic History, 1895-1900."

Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Gefell of 40 Bonnie Brae Ave. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Mass offered by Msgr. Gerard Krieg last Saturday at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Rochester.

Vows were renewed in traditional manner and a family gathering followed the ceremony at Howard Johnson's. Mr. and Mrs. Gefell have two sons, four daughters, and 32 grandchildren.

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(Catholic Press Features)

New York — You need a guide to teenage jargon to decipher most pop songs today, but who would think you'd ever need a good Biblical commentary to do the job?

A new recording by The Cowsills is titled "The Prophecy of Daniel and John the Divine" and has already been tagged by "Billboard" magazine as a sure bet for the "Top 20" pop-record charts, and, if teenagers really want to dig the words, the new song may even promote a few sales of the new "Jerome Biblical Commentary" or similar works.

For these are the words to the song, written by Remo Capra and published by Kamarrappa Music, Inc.:

"And when they saw her / rising from the ocean / a name was on her forehead; / Babylon; / Babylon; / Six is the number / Six is the number of a man.

"She was arrayed in purple and scarlet color / And gold and pearls / and in her hand she held a golden cup.

"It's been written down to reveal / Six is the number of his seal. / It's been written to understand / Six is the number of a man.

"Then finally one day, she was cast back into the sea from where she came / So that she would never torment man again.

"It's been written down in Revelation / Daniel and John explanation. / If you read it you will find / It's a sign of warning for mankind."

"Billboard," the record industry trade paper, suggested that The Cowsills' MGM recording of the song might run into trouble on some radio stations because "it deals with the destruction of the world as predicted in the Bible."

The Cowsills, a singing family who are Catholic and got their start several years ago performing for a parochial school in Canton, Ohio, shot back with their own interpretation, denying there was anything pessimistic in the song.

Bob Cowsill, at 20 the eldest of the performing Cowsill children (the group is made up of four boys, a girl and their mother, Barbara), said "The Prophecy" did not deal with the destruction of



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of the New Testament, St. John, Chapter 13, Verse 18, where he describes beasts coming up out of the sea and the earth:

"Here is wisdom. He who has understanding, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man; and its number is six hundred and sixty-six."

In "The Prophecy of Daniel" in the Old Testament, there are frequent references to "beasts" as being representative of evil powers that will rule the earth before being overcome by Christ and His Kingdom.

As to the "666" reference in the Apocalypse of St. John, the Jerome Biblical Commentary says it has to do with "the number of a man" when a man's "number" was determined by the number of letters in his name: the "number" being the sum total of the various numerical values given each letter of his name.

"The most widely accepted theory," says the Jerome Biblical Commentary, "identifies '666' with Neron Caesar. Nero fits the context, for he was the first emperor to persecute the Christians; he embodied all the worst characteristics of the Beast, and he came to life again in Domitian (another emperor)."

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MEL NEWS NOTES

The barometer's rising, folks it sure is each week a notch just a bit higher. But have no fear — we're not predicting another long hot spell. No, the barometer we refer to in our Courier chart each week records an ever increasing number of groups registered for MONEY LABELS. Money labels are that barometer records an ever increasing number of groups registered for MONEY LABELS.

Many presidents elected this spring are confidently not just resting on their laurels. They know that now is the time to plan the fall schedule of activities to raise up the programs which will enlarge their club's treasury. This is why so many have joined the MONEY LABELS family at this time. They want to see it set and ready to go when the program officially begins in September.

Today practically every type of organization needs funds to operate. Whether it's a church of 2500 members or a social "service" group of 10, there's always a place for spare cash. Finding a new and different way to acquire this "service" problem. Most of the tried and true methods involve some financial sacrifice on the part of members. Because of all the other demands made on everyone today, a president hesitates to ask for this additional sacrifice.

Do you, Madam President, find yourself in this quandary? Are you looking for a new approach to fund raising? No MONEY LABELS is definitely your cup of tea. Instead of taking money from your members, MONEY LABELS will be putting money in their pockets. AND your organization will be realizing a profit at the same time.

Yes, the barometer's rising. Keep this good "weather" with us by signing up for MONEY LABELS NOW. We welcome all requests for information about MONEY LABELS. However, when you do make inquiries, be sure to identify the GROUP concerned since you can participate only through a group. Call 546-5140 or 865-1554, fill out the coupon below or contact one of the following-Courier representatives: Canandaigua Region—Mr. Frank Crociata, 35 S. St., Rochester 716-546-6150. Auburn Region — Mr. Jack Madden, 71 Nelson St., Auburn 315-252-9232. Elmira Region—Mr. Basil Vaillancourt, 371 Robinson Bldg., Elmira 601-732-5688; Dansville Region—Mr. Andy Mazzella, 80 Platt St., Hornell 607-324-2960. Mail the coupon to Money Labels, Courier Journal, 35 S. St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

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