

TEENAGERS WANT TO KNOW

BY FATHER MARTIN, C.S.S.R.
Dear Father,

Should a person who doesn't believe that the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ through the actions of the priest at Mass, but rather that the Mass is a commemoration of the Last Supper, still receive Communion?

If a person does receive Communion, isn't that being "fake"? Isn't it saying that I believe in the Mass, because Communion is the highest part of the Mass? And if a person does not believe in the Mass, why should they attend Mass?

tion, and not merely commemoration. This has been the constant teaching and tradition of the Church, and the Scriptures have always been interpreted in this way concerning our Lord's words.

Of course, it would be a mockery to receive Communion if we did not really believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ. But, we have free will and we can make an act of Faith. And we can make the prayer of the Apostle, St. Peter, our own.

"Lord, I believe, help my unbelief."

It's the same with the Mass. If we don't believe, in it, there's not much point in attending. But the question is, do we want to make the effort to believe in it, or would we rather take the easy way out, and risk the salvation of our soul? May God bless you.

DEAR FATHER,

I am a senior in high

school, 17 years of age, and have a problem.

I am not a bad girl, just like to go places. One of these places is an area where artists, so-called hippies, and young musicians hang out. A group of girls visit this area in the evening and meet occasional boys. The boys we meet, we only talk with, and they walk through the area with us.

My relatives do not want

me to go to this section. They tell me I am nothing more than a girl trying to meet boys without a formal introduction, and it will give me a bad name. They say I am going to get hurt if I continue visiting such a place — do you agree?

—REGINA

Dear Regina,

Yes, I believe your relatives are correct. It's a lot tougher for parents to discipline their children than you think. And parents don't do their children any favors by letting them do whatever they please.

Your parents are concerned because you can meet

many undesirable characters in the type of area that you describe. You may meet a lot of good people there too, but I don't think, in general, it is wise for a group of young girls to be walking alone in this kind of environment, especially late at night. For one thing, some of the more "hoody" characters may think you are a soft touch, or may think you are walking the area because you want to be picked up.

I think you will realize more and more that you don't have it so bad at home, and I think you will appreciate more the genuine concern your relatives have for you. May God bless you.

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Dear Elaine,

The Mass is indeed a commemoration of the Last Supper, but it is also much more. It is the Last Supper and Calvary re-enacted once again.

Our Lord knew how difficult this concept would be for some people to accept — that we could eat His Body and drink His Blood, so He prepared the Jews of His time and us also, by His clear and unmistakable language. "I am the bread of life... If anyone eat of this bread he shall live forever, and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews started to argue with one another and said: "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?"

Our Lord knew their arguments, but He also knew that these people knew what He meant. They knew this was no figurative language; they knew that our Lord wasn't kidding; that He wasn't being symbolic. They understood all right, but their difficulty was in accepting on Faith. But our Lord mined no words with them, but went on: "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His Blood, you shall not have life in you. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has life everlasting and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats this flesh shall live forever."

When Our Lord instituted the Eucharist, He said, "This is My Body; This is My Blood." Then He said, "Do this in commemoration of Me." But there seems to be no doubt that our Lord was talking about actual transubstantiation.

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Pope 'Irregular Reform

Castel Gandolfo "permitted limit" passed in efforts to reformers, particularly modernize the priestly VI said at his residence here.

In one of his more direct attacks so far, groups which have reforms, the Pope Church "needs united, in agreement happy."

He criticized "ments" and "too public opinion" as a question of clerical "has been discussed."

While he praised of liturgy, Canon changes being studied, the Pope the "impulses" arising and Vatican Council to the Church.

"The Council has new and numerous. 'Not all of them, right direction — edification of the Thus it is that some to indicate serious Church itself.

"We have pointed ourselves, such as ity of doctrinal schools and among

"And there is no see how dangerous the habit of considering man and social as ment of its principv aspect — the prayer.

"In the same wa serve without appr with which people of ecclesiastical principle is part of the stability and de mystical and visible the Church."

"Perhaps," the permitted limit ha in the attempt worthy — to integ his social surround by secularizing his thinking and living the path of worldly thereby weakening his function as mir pel and of grace.

"Time is needed i what is good from of Catholic life and into harmony. Then speak of a deterior We are not of this confirm our faith Christ and of the g

Irrigation T Holy Water

London — (RNS) costal church in the Mow Cop (consider bers the birthpla Methodism) has b leave a wooden hut services for four ye

Neighbors compl hymn-singing durin But the worst probl villagers, was the o whenever a new m wized by total imm

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ON THE

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