

Is Celibacy 'Impossible'?

(Continued from Page 6)

without love; no new life is kindled without fire; no children are begotten without a flame. But in her case, the love would be supplied by Love, or the Holy Spirit, Who would overshadow her. As the Spirit brought re-creation of the cosmos by hovering over chaos, so the Spirit would re-create humanity by hovering over the Lady. It is very likely that at the moment of conception by the Spirit, Mary felt an ecstasy of love which surpassed in intensity all the ecstasies of all the conceptions of all women in history. How did the conception take place? It was conception by reception or the total acceptance of the Word of God. The Word of God begets life.

Generation is twofold: carnal and spiritual. We are born of the flesh, but we may be "born again by the Word of God" (1 Pet. 1/23). Every conversion is by the Word of God; every increase in holiness is by the Word of God. It was humanly impossible that a virgin conceive, but Mary received in faith the Word Himself. If the preaching of the Word works wonders in the heart, shall not the reception of the Word work an enmeshment in her body? No wonder the Fathers of the Church taught that Mary had already conceived in her soul what she conceived in her womb. The angel gave the final assurance: "Nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1/37). God would unite in her virginity and motherhood as He united in Sarah sterility and motherhood.

The response of Mary was immediate: "Be it done to me according to Thy Word". The Word here is Rema, which means not a syllable, or an idea, but a promise, the totality of the prophecy of redemption. Rema was the very word, or promise, given to Abraham that he would have a son. As Abraham would accept the Rema, and have Isaac, so Mary would accept the Rema, and have Jesus.

A parallel exists here with Abraham who was naturally incapable of generating a son through Sarah: "Abraham refused either to deny it, or even doubt it, but drew strength from the faith" (Rom. 4/20). What blood and reason could not attain, faith could. Where there is no faith, God is without honor or majesty. God demands that we

take Him not as an empty idol, or a "dead God", but as One Who can do the impossible!

Abraham was made the father of all believers of the Old Testament, so Mary was to be the mother of all believers in the New Testament. Abraham received the "impossible" promise for old Israel, and Mary received the "impossible" for the new Israel. As Abraham was the eschatological personification of Israel, so Mary is the eschatological personification of the new Israel, the Church.

Celibacy Is As Unnatural As Walking On Water

I can understand the hundreds of arguments given against celibacy:

"It makes me a spirit instead of a man"; "it dehumanizes"; "it alienates me from the world"; "it forces me to be unnatural"; "it distorts the mind by drowning the fountains of life"; etc. Instead of answering these statements, they should all be admitted on the natural and human level.

But is there not another layer to life, one which involves the Word and faith in Him? Could it not be that the impossibility of celibacy intensifies as faith weakens, for what makes the impossible possible is faith in the Word.

We said at the beginning that celibacy was as impossible as walking on water. Now has any man ever walked on water? Any man? The Son of God has! But man? Yes, Peter did! One night he recognized Our Lord coming towards his boat. Peter, ever impetuous, asked the Lord to bid him come to Him by walking on the waters. The Lord bade him to do the impossible: "Come" (Matt. 14/28). Peter began walking on the waters. He did the unnatural!

He went contrary to every survey, poll and test that had ever been made about man's capacity to tread the deep, and he walked not for ostentation or trickery, but to go to Jesus.

Suddenly, Peter begins to sink! The impossible is no longer possible! "The Spirit of poverty is a snare!" "Celibacy is unpsychological." Why did Peter not swim? He was a fisherman, and we know that once he swam 100 yards in that same lake (John 21/7).

What turned the swimmer into a sinker, the poor man into a miser, the celibate into "my beloved wife Jezabel agrees with me"? The answer: he took his eyes off Jesus and began to take account of the storm and "felt the force of the wind" (Matt. 14/30).

Nature was against him! He was on his own! In the days of sailing vessels where a new hand climbed the narrow rope-ladder to the crow's nest, the old sailors would shout: "Look up! Look up!" If he did not, he might become dizzy, and fall. Peter now looked down at his feet, his body, the drips and the storms.

The Lord had given him a vocation. He could not deny that. He distinctly heard: "Come", and he knew it was a vocation to the impossible. But the air was full of anti-impossible talk; so he began sinking. He could not even swim. When the Divine is abandoned, not even our nature left to itself functions properly, as the senses of an LSD youth are less keen than when guided by reason.

Has there ever been a sacerdotal drowning in the Sea of Sexuality without first turning from Jesus and a turning to the terrible impact of Galup Polls, circulars, statistics and hot siroccos of hebdomadal theologues that celibacy is unnatural and unachievable?

Divine Help

But when Peter cried out to be saved, "Jesus then immediately reached out His Hand and caught Him". He saves even those who, in loss of faith, cry to Him. But the reprimand followed: "Man of little faith". All the psychological and sociological motivations for poverty and celibacy snap when there is no longer trust in grace. "Why did you doubt?"

Why has celibacy suddenly become the pre-occupation of the press, the clergy and the religious? Does it trouble the priests in Hungary suffering under Communism, as it does us? Did it trouble our missionaries in China when the Reds sought them out as rats? Has it anything to do with our affluence, our secularism, our crazy, mixed up drive to negate and to protest, and to find fault?

One thing is certain: It has something to do with our loss of faith, our unworn prejudices, the infrequency of visits to the Blessed Sacrament, our growing skepticism, our rosary-less pockets, our night meetings of rebellion, our un-cruelty walls, our jibes and darts against the Holy Father, our dread of appearing as priests among the worldly and our unopened Scriptures.

The impossible will always be hard, but it is possible among those who "are not of the world and whom the world hates" (John 17/4); "who save their lives by losing it" (Luke 17/33); who learn the Cross as much as the Cyrenian did, but hate to love it by hugging it; who stumble, and yet know their Lord fell three times and stumbled to His Throne, who even in their weakest moments, when they pierce the tender heart of Christ, nevertheless feel the trickle of His Redemptive Blood on their hands, and like the centurion, intensify their faith in the Savior. Such is the beautiful impossibility of celibacy made possible by the "Love we fall just short of in all love".

Celibacy is Faith on its knees.

Anthony Sheen

Deaths

Mrs. Hubble

Mrs. Marie Bolger Hubble of Hilton, one of the oldest members of the Nazareth Academy Alumnae Society, died Sept. 14, 1969. Her son, Passionist Father Niles W. Hubble, concelebrated the funeral Mass in St. Leo's Church with nine members of his order. He is serving the Navy as a chaplain, with the rank of commander.

Mrs. Hubble was born Dec. 3, 1889, in Lyons, and had lived in Hilton since 1912. She was graduated from Nazareth in 1908 and was a past president of the alumnae group and member of its executive board. Her marriage to Earl Hubble, former county sealer of weights and measures, took place 55 years ago Sept. 26.

Surviving besides her husband and son are a daughter, Mrs. Donald Foster; three grandchildren and three great grandchildren; a sister, Mrs. Catherine Stanbucky of Rochester; a brother, James Bolger of Los Angeles and several nieces and nephews.

Sister Louiseine

Mass for repose of the soul of Sister Mary Louiseine Kiefer, SSND, former teacher at SS. Peter & Paul, St. Michael, Holy Family and Holy Redeemer Schools, was celebrated Wednesday in Holy Family Church, Rochester.

Sister Louiseine, who died Sept. 21, 1969, in St. Mary's Hospital, is survived by a sister, Sister Mary Ludwig, SSND, of Holy Family convent, and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Quinlan

Frank M. Quinlan, architect of several structures connected with the church, died Sept. 18, 1969, at his home, 1400 East Ave. The funeral Mass was celebrated last Saturday at St. Augustine's.

Mr. Quinlan, 77, retired 10 years ago. He had designed a number of buildings for Nazareth College, Aquinas Stadium, St. Andrew's Seminary, now Kings Preparatory School, and various rectories, churches and convents in the Rochester area. He also designed homes and industrial buildings.

He was a graduate of old Cathedral High School and Notre Dame University. During World War I, he served in France with the Army Engineer Corps.

Surviving are two sons, Thomas and Frank, Jr.; two daughters, Mrs. Richard T. Batenon and Mrs. J. Thurman Pierce; 13 grandchildren and one sister, Mrs. Marguerite Muckle.

JESUIT EDUCATOR DIES

San Francisco — (RNS) — Father John F. X. Connolly, S.J., died Sept. 16 in the chapel of the Jesuit residence at the University of San Francisco on the day he was to assume the newly-created post of university chancellor.

The 54-year-old USF vice-president for university relations, who had served as president from 1954 to 1963, succumbed to a heart attack.

A native of San Francisco, Father Connolly was ordained in June 1946. He was provincial of the California Province of the Society of Jesus from 1963 to 1968.

CCD CLASSES SET FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED

Saturday morning classes for mentally handicapped children will be held again this term at St. Ambrose and St. Charles Borromeo Schools under the auspices of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD).

Parents may obtain information by telephoning Mrs. Marian Claus at 482-7882.

Adult Education Courses Set in 5 Diocesan Areas

Several hundreds of persons throughout the Rochester Diocese are expected to begin eight once-weekly adult education courses in five diocesan areas.

7:30-8:20 — "Who, What, When, Why — The Church," Father Sebastian Falcone, OFM, lecturer in Sacred Scripture, St. Bernard's Seminary.

Besides courses in Rochester, West Webster, Elmira and Ithaca (detailed in last week's Courier-Journal), a program also is scheduled in Geneva.

8:50-9:40 p.m. — "Penance: Meaningful or Meaningless?" Father Cyprian Rosen, OFM, co-director, Adult Religious Education Program.

All the courses, sponsored by the Office of Christian Formation Program, are slated to begin next week on the evenings of Mondays through Thursdays.

Sept. 29, Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 10, 7:30-8:20 — "Teaching Sex to Children," Diocesan Committee on Sex Education. (Primarily for parents.)

The Geneva series, scheduled from Sept. 28 to Nov. 17, to be held in De Sales High School, will include:

Information on all the courses may be obtained through the Adult Education Program, P. O. Box 231, Geneva (716/789-1991).

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Pledged To: Quality Standards
Dignity in Service
Integrity in Business

PAUL W. HARRIS
FUNERAL HOME

AIR COND. OFF STREET PARKING
954 CLIFFORD AVE. 544-2041

WANT ADS

Phone 454-7050

BUSINESS SERVICES

ROOFING REPAIRS - Wind damage, leaks, asphalt, slate, tile. Gilbert, 254-7665.

FLOORS LAID - sanded, refinished since 1921. Cy J. Callmeyr, 468-465.

ODD JOBS: Storm windows removed, washing walls, floor waxing, cleaning gutters etc. 436-4421.

PAINTING INTERIOR only, you furnish materials, I do labor with my equipment. 232-5101, 852-4439.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

WOMEN, club groups, scout troops, handicapped persons, make high commissions selling Christmas cards and supplies. No investment necessary. Fran's Business Service, 546-4200 or 546-4097.

HELP WANTED

WANTED: NURSE-L.P.N. All shifts, no rotation, excellent working conditions. Attractive salary and benefits. Contact personnel office, St. Ann's Home, 342-1709.

MERCHANDISE

FOR SALE: Pool Table, 7 ft. Like new. First \$100. Includes balls, cues and bridge. 342-1427.

WILLIAMS TAPER RECORDER - Un-dressed tapes, radio, stereo, cassettes 207-16 429-2141.

TWO SNOW TIRES size 695x14 with wheels used less than 500 mi. \$20 each. 446-0114.

HELP WANTED MALE

DISTRIBUTOR-SALES - AAA-1 company offers protected distributorship. Business established nationally and in area. No financial investment required. Five figure potential first year. Distribute to restaurants, hotels, schools, churches and civic groups. Write full details to: World's Finest Chocolate Inc., Attn: Mr. J. Lee, 2521 W. 64th St., Chicago, 111 60632.

IMPORTANT Notice: The New York State Law Against Discrimination and the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibit discrimination in employment because of sex unless based on a bona fide occupational qualification. Help Wanted and Situation Wanted advertisements are arranged in columns captioned "Male" and "Female" for the convenience of readers and are not intended as an unlawful limitation or discrimination based on sex.

HELP WANTED—FEMALE

ADVERTISING WORLD: If you can type, have a nice phone personality, you will be trained to earn all phases of this interesting world of advertising. Salary \$110 weekly. Agency fee paid by employer. Call Mrs. S. J. 44-4484 Shellings & Shellings Agency.

RECEPTIONIST: Great opportunity for a girl who likes detail. Incentive and diversified sales experience helpful here. Call Kay Wells, 454-5484 Shellings & Shellings Agency.

PERSONALS

HAPPINESS IS: Night Adornment of the Sacred Heart, 325-1046, 369-9276.

WEARING APPAREL

SETON SHOP 37 Ardmore St. off Chili Ave. reviews with new line of nearly new men's, women's and children's fall and winter clothing. Many new items. Also hair braes and jewelry. Open Wed. Thur. and Fri. 10:4 Sat. 10:15. (Proceeds to St. Mary's Hospital)

WANTED

WANTED: FOSTER Boarding Homes urgently needed for Catholic Children, all ages. Telephone Monroe County Children's Services Division.

WANTED TO RENT

FAMILY OF 5 (adults) desires 6 rooms, preferably southside. Immediately 423-2798.

INSTRUCTIONS

LEARN TO SEW! Small classes, Saturday and evenings. 473-8899.

\$1.00

WANT AD FEATURE

For Subscribers to the Courier Journal

The Only Requirements Are:

- You Must be a Subscriber to The Courier Journal
- Want Ad Must Be 10 Words or Less (Each Additional Words 8c)
- Payment Must Accompany Order

Please Enter My Want Ad for _____ Weeks

Enclosed is \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Courier-Journal
Want Ad Dept.
35 Scio St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

You will receive A CHECK EVERY MONTH as long as you live

on your investment through our

MISSION CONTRACT
(A GIFT ANNUITY)

6% TO 10% YOU WILL RECEIVE High returns depending on age TO **6% TO 10%**

You will help needy seminarians to the priesthood

WRITE TODAY For FURTHER DETAILS TO

Send me information on your Life Income Mission Contract. Amount: \$ _____

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

REV. FATHER COYLE S.V.D. CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES
316 N. MICHIGAN / CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

SHOP WITH CONFIDENCE

Your **BUYERS' Guide**

FRIENDLY SERVICE

a handy reference to quality

GENERAL BUSINESS

Visit our show rooms—Select a real bargain—Complete line Rugs, Furniture, Appliances, etc. **Charlotte Appliance** TONY AGOSTINELLI Lake Theatre—3268 Lake Ave. 489-5050

You Owe It To Yourself To Use **OUR MILK**

We have been serving the Rochester Area for nearly Forty Years With The Finest In Dairy Products. **WEGMAN DAIRY INC.** 465 Chili Ave. 436-8100

THE HOFFMAN MUSIC SHOP 467 N. Goodman Phone 454-5645 OPEN EVENINGS

19 Clinton Av. S. 454-7611 **LINTZ HUMIDOR** Rochester's Finest Tobacco Shop THE ONLY SHOP IN ROCHESTER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO SMOKING OPEN EVENINGS

GULF MOTOR CLINIC Dynamometer Tune-Up Wheel Alignment Wheel Balance Carburetor • Starter Generators 266-5472 Midland 1141 Norton St. Shopper

819 Moseley Rd. On Route 250 South of Rt. 31 In The Old Country Store Atmosphere Daily & Sat. 1-5 Sun. 1-7 p.m. (716) 377-3677 **Drummer Boy Gift Shop**

DRUG STORES

BLESSED SACRAMENT BLAUW'S PHARMACY Established 1851 So. Goodman at Clinton 271-4190

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHILSON PHARMACY 1704 Monroe Ave. 473-6402 Prescription DELIVERY SERVICE

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO DEWEY AVE. PHARMACY Prescription Specialists COSMETICS • TOILETRIES PHOTO FINISHING 2910 Dewey Avenue 865-2210

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH PRESCRIPTIONS Carefully Compounded **MANDELL'S PHARMACY** By Mandell 467-0879 266-9554 DRUGS-COSMETICS-SUNDRIES Portland Ave. at Norton

WATCHES - DIAMONDS Budget Terms **WM. S. THORNE JEWELERS** 318 EAST MAIN ST. Official R.R. Watch Inspector

OUR LADY OF LOURDES LA MAY DRUG CO. 1800 EAST AVE. 271-2896

PACKAGE STORES

WARNER'S LIQUOR STORE HINCHEY ROAD AT CHILI AVE.

NEW YORK STATES LARGEST WINE & SPIRITS CENTER is **HENNER'S** Liquor Store & INTERNATIONAL WINE 544-554 Chili 235-7674 "WE GLADLY DELIVER"

ADVERTISE HERE AT LOW COST CALL 454-7050

BUILDING SUPPLIES 2715 W. HENRIETTA RD. 1800 EMPIRE BLVD. At Creek St. 1520 RIDGE RD. W. in Stone-Ridge Plaza 999 RIDGE RD. E. in Arlon's Plaza, Irondequoit

OPEN DAILY 8:30 A.M. - 9 P.M. SAT. 'TIL 5



RCA
RC
PO
14
CO
W
SEE
227
TRAN
R
IN
N
24
OPEI