

TEENAGERS WANT TO KNOW

By FATHER MARTIN
Dear Father,
When people start living on the moon will they take religion with them or will religion stay on earth?

Dear Ed,
It's hard to say whether or not people will ever live on the moon, but I am sure they will take religion with them if they do move to the moon. The astronauts have already proven this.

Even the most primitive people have had some kind of sacrifice and some kind of worship of a Supreme Being. It would be hard to visualize a very civilized people not worshipping the true God.

The more we find out about the moon and planets, the more we will realize that God is the author of all created things. Only now are we beginning to discover what God created in the beginning and I believe these discoveries will bring people closer to the realization of an all-God and all-Powerful God. To see how another feels about the moon and God, read the following letter.

Dear Father,
Recently, in the Catholic paper, I read an article on astronauts praying while in space. Mrs. Madalyn Murray O'Hair wants to prevent astronauts from engaging in religious activities.

Even atheists have to have some God. How can a person live without a Supreme Being? Who do they confide in with problems? Who do they tell their successes and failures to when no one will listen or show interest?

I say let astronauts pray while in space. After all, it's really up to Him whether they made a successful trip or not. Prayer is the one thing that really seems right.

Thank you for letting me have my say.
KAREN

Dear Karen,
If all the Madalyn Murray O'Hairs had the same common sense that you have the world would be a much better place to live in.

Dear Father,
I have been going with a wonderful guy for about 21 months. I'll soon be 17, and he'll be 19. We've had a lot of fun together and we've had several misunderstandings.

Before Butch and I started dating, I had several dates which were no fun at all. My mother has decided to break us up. He's in the service and she thinks I should go out and have fun.

Butch and I are planning on an engagement during Christmas, but we won't get married until we both have jobs and a home. (My mother only knows that we won't get married as soon as I graduate.) His folks are all for us.

My mother knows how much we love each other, but she just won't let us alone. Butch isn't a Catholic, but he said he would change for me. Father, why can't my mother just understand us and our love for each other. We're waiting with the wedding because we know she wouldn't consent to it right after high school.
MYRNA

Dear Myrna,
I suspect your mother is not trying to break up your relationship with Butch as much as you might think. Her real concern is probably that you make the right decision. If you have been dating this boy for 21 months, it means that you have been going with him almost exclusively since you were about 15 years old. If you haven't met or gone out with many other boys, it might be a little hard for you to make a mature and prudent decision about this.

I think your mother wants you to meet other boys to make sure of your decision. And even if this is not her motive, I personally think it might be good for you to date a few other boys just so you can make sure Butch and you are really meant for each other.

Also, cruel as this may sound, Butch himself might have different thoughts once he is away. Once a person is removed from the closeness of a situation he sometimes sees things, including romance, in a different light. I am not saying he is going to change in his feelings toward you, but there is the chance he might. His separation from you might well have an even more beneficial result. It might further strengthen the regard and love that he has for you.

Dear Father,
I need your help desperately. A few years ago I worried a lot about sins of impurity. My mother tried to help me because she said she had the same problem when she was young.

She told me not to confess these sins, but to just forget everything that I was worried about. I thought some of the things I did were sins, but I did what my mother told me and gradually I forgot about them.

Now sometimes I remember some of the things I did

and they seem to have all the things necessary for a mortal sin. I talked to my mother again and she tells me just to forget the past. She said that if any of the things I am worrying about are sins, they are forgiven anyway and I don't have to confess them. I want to know if what my mother says is true or if I am obliged to confess these sins of my past.
ELLEN

Dear Ellen,
It's a wonderful thing that you can confide in your mother in such delicate matters that you mention. I'm sure your mother told you to forget about these matters because she could see that they were unduly bothering you and making you over-anxious and perhaps scrupulous.

A lot of times we have hindsight about things we did in the past and we realize that those things were wrong and perhaps even sinful. However, for a matter to be a sin, it is necessary that we realize at the time we perform the action that we have sufficient realization that we are committing a sin.

From what you tell me in your letter I would go along with your mother and say you have nothing to worry about, especially since you thought you were doing the correct thing in listening to

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(NC News Service)
Rome—Twin broadsides were levelled simultaneously at the Italian divorce bill by Catholic prelates and Catholic jurists.

The dual attacks followed separate meetings in early December of the president's council of the Italian Bishops' Conference (CEI) and the Union of Italian Catholic Jurists (UGCI).

A prestigious organization, UGCI, attracted to its meeting in the Roman city hall magistrates, jurists and attorneys from all over Italy. Surprisingly, the jurists' condemnation was stronger than that of the bishops. It called for a reasoned approach to the benefit of indissolubility and ended with an ominous prediction of a national referendum, should the matter go that far.

Prof. Francesco Passarelli, a member of the civil law faculty at Rome University and president of UGCI, keynoted the jurists' meeting by condemning the very notion of divorce.

He emphasized that the value of the family was predicated on indissolubility and that this was

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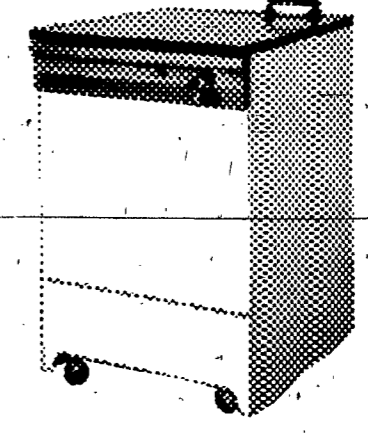
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