

WEE PALS



by Morrie Turner

TEENAGERS WANT TO KNOW

By FATHER MARTIN

Dear Father,

I am a Catholic, 17 years old; my boy friend is Lutheran, 18 years old. Recently, I attended a Lutheran funeral. What the minister said made a lot of sense to me.

In our church, we say we should forget our sorrows and be joyous because the deceased is now joined with God. This minister said we should remember our sorrows and learn from them. To me, this makes more sense. It's easier to remember a tragedy and learn by it, than it is to forget it.

Mary

Dear Mary,

There is no contradiction between the attitudes you speak of in your letter. Naturally, we are going to be sad when a loved one dies. Even Christ wept at the death of His good friend, Lazarus. But a friend has to elevate his grief beyond the natural. Through Scripture and through faith we believe in the Resurrection, and this has to be a cause of joy for us.

We can certainly learn from sorrow. In many instances, for example, the good points of a person don't come home to us until a person has died. Only then do we realize just how good that person was, how considerate, self-sacrificing, or hard working he was.

Often times sorrow will jolt us to take a better look at ourselves, and can then be a springboard for self-improvement. For instance, sorrow can eliminate self-pity from our life.

National tragedy, such as the death of President Kennedy, often teaches a nation a lesson. The president's death struck the conscience of a whole nation, and people began to realize more fully the evil of violence and hate. Tragedies on a more personal level can teach us the same lesson.

Dear Father,

I am a 15 year old girl that is very sad and confused, and I feel as though I'm not worthy enough to go to church.

About four months ago I was with a boy I liked very much. I guess it was too much because we did things that were wrong. After this I felt so guilty that I couldn't even pray.

I guess my will power isn't strong enough, because I saw him again. This time we did a little more.

Father, this was four months ago and I feel so guilty, I know I'll never let it happen again. Will God forgive me? Is it too serious of a sin?

Rita

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Dear Rita,

God forgives any sin if we are truly sorry. He is a kind and compassionate God. He wants us to put our hope in Him.

There is a lot of difference between being sorry for our sins and feeling guilty about them. An unhealthy guilt is not good for us. It saps our spiritual strength and this is exactly what the devil wants.

I strongly urge you to make a good confession, and then forget about the past. Once you make a good confession, I can guarantee you that not only will you have more spiritual strength, but even your physical and emotional pep will return to you.

Dear Father,

So often girls write to you to tell you that they are too shy to talk to boys and ask you what to do. Or they ask you what are the qualities that a boy looks for in a girl. I think the coin ought to be reversed. I know a lot of guys I hang around with are too shy to talk to a girl and they often wonder what are the qualities that a girl looks for in a guy. Maybe you can help some of the shy guys also.

Randy

Dear Randy,

Maybe girls can answer your questions better than I can, and I certainly invite

them to write in and tell me what qualities they most look for in a boy.

My own idea would be that girls look for gentlemen, boys who are kind and considerate, boys who are not deliberate show-offs, boys who treat them with respect and dignity.

As for getting over your shyness, there is no easy solution. A person almost has to force himself to get over this. The best way to do it is to determine to go up and talk to a person and then do it. Sometimes it takes just one sentence to break the ice and get the conversation going.

A boy should have enough self confidence that he can prepare a few topics in his mind that he can talk about. A girl who is really interested in a boy would like to

hear something about the boy, how he himself is doing in his studies, what kind of a job he has, what he thinks about the basketball team, and so on.

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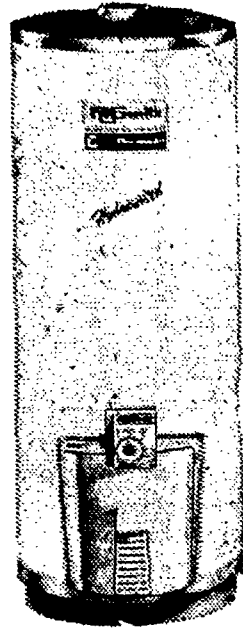
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