



# TEENAGERS WANT TO KNOW

**By FATHER MARTIN**  
Dear Father,

Why can't a boy and a girl who are both 17 marry? Jack and I are very much in love and we want to get married soon, but our parents oppose the marriage. Aren't we old enough to know what love is? I can understand now why some girls go and get themselves pregnant, so their parents will allow them to get married.

Dear Joan,

A boy and girl at 17 can definitely be truly in love, and I mean real love, not just the infatuation type of thing some people call "love." But there is much more to marriage than just love, though love is extremely important.

Marriage also demands great maturity, especially today when the complexities of the world, such as earning a living, understanding finances, getting a good education, and the hankering for material comforts are far greater than they were two or even one generation ago.

Marriage demands the ability to make sound judgments, demands inner strength to put up with sufferings, it demands sound emotional strength.

Many 17 year olds do not possess these attributes in abundance. And it is not their fault necessarily. Just as human growth takes time, so does it take time and experience to acquire some of these qualities we have been speaking about.

The teen years are the precious years when a person acquires a more mature education, outlook on life, understanding of human nature, and above all they are the years when he first really begins to understand himself, and what he wants of life. So he can't be too precipitate in entering such a sacred contract and sacrament as marriage until he is fully ready and gets a better grasp of the realities that we have been discussing.

Through the hard school of experience your parents have faced up to these realities. They probably realize and be-

lieve that you are truly in love, but they also understand that marriage means more than love, and therefore they are trying to help you to avoid mistakes. They believe it is better for you to be hurt now than to spend many lonely years in grief and "bitter disappointment, and possibly hate and despair.

Finally, I might add that your last statement that some girls get themselves pregnant because of parental opposition to their marriage plans show how right their parents really are and how immature the girl is, and how unready she is for marriage. I think it's something to meditate upon.

Dear Carl,

You'll have to ask the Jesuits about their financial arrangements. I know nothing about them. But I do think your friend is being very cynical and downright unfair about his statement that the Catholic Church doesn't want war to end because it is making money out of it. One reason why we don't have people living in peace and charity as we should is because of people like your friend.

If you think the Church is not against war, you must not have been paying attention to Pope Paul's impassioned appeals for peace ever since he was elected to the papacy. And do you remember the special trip he took to the United Nations to make his dramatic appeal to the rulers of countries for a just and lasting peace? Read the statements that have come out from Bishops' Conference throughout the world, and I think you will see where the Church stands on the matter of war and peace.

But the Church must also be concerned with the innocent. Do you think the free world should have stood by when Hitler started to enslave countries "for country"? Do you think the free world should stand by as Communists of various hues enslave free and innocent people throughout the world? Don't these free countries have some obligation to be their brother's keeper? Our Lord also had something to say about that.

Just as you have a right to defend yourself against an unjust aggressor who accosts you in your home or on the street, so a nation has a right to defend itself against any unjust aggressors. And just as people have an obligation in charity to help you if they see your life threatened, so do other nations have an obligation in charity to help other nations defend their life, their freedom, and their dignity.

## Three Areas of Concern for the Parish Board

**By JOAN ZUMMO**

A very important part of a parish advisory board is the religious education committee. Whether organized as a relatively autonomous group under the direction of a parish coordinator or established as one committee of the all-inclusive parish board, the religious education committee is an essential element.

The diocesan CCD Office outlines an idealized parish board for religious education. An executive committee would consist of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, priest, and religious consultant. The three general areas of concern include the home, the schools, and the community. Each of these areas would have a co-chairman in charge of a subcommittee.

The committee also oversees extra curricular activities such as forums, weekend retreats, liturgical experiences, field trips, plays, apostolic experiences, and student councils.

The committee for community apostolate aims to announce Christ to the contemporary adult in a way in which he can discover and act upon his Christian vocation in the world.

Areas of this group's concern include adult education, ecumenical activity, and Christian social action.

An idealized outline must be adapted to the individual circumstances of a parish. This basic outline can easily be used, however, as a core for the parish religious education board. Also, since Christian formation is one of the most important aspects of parish life the activities of the religious education board are a natural focal point for the activities of a more general parish layman's board.

**Dear Father,**

I'm a high school freshman and 14 years old. My problem is my grandfather! He is now living with us and will continue to do so in our new home. He constantly picks on me. He also swears at me very often, for nothing. He finds fault with me at everything I do.

**JOHN**

**Dear John,**

You do have a problem. Usually grandparents dote on a grandchild. I suspect your grandfather is a lonely man and probably feels he is not getting enough attention. He probably, at least subconsciously, is vying with you for attention.

About the best thing you can do is to try to understand his problem. His wife, your grandmother, is evidently dead. He undoubtedly misses her very much and the attention and solicitude he once had.

Gradually your grandfather will come to see your concern for him.

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## Diocese B Goldberg Bars Trar

The following is the letter sent to principals, chairmen of parish boards in the Diocese of I

Dear Colleagues,

Mr. Goldberg's integration of the City School District judgment, a sound, im constructive blueprint in the city.

We are at a point in teaching children to know and live with other races is more important knowing the dates and tory or the theorems o

It is unfortunate that third of the students w be bused under the p ban districts, such busin granted and is not h educational program. I is a small price to pay, i for the opportunity to integration and an impo tional arrangement. We own planning to search ing children contacts w dren of different races.

Bishop Hogan will so a pastoral letter touch lect. In the meantime, h ing a policy prohibiti, this time from the cit trict schools into par except for cases wher first moving into the

We do not want the party to offer to pre plan from receiving a and having a chance t Besides, mass transfe: die of a semester could of a school's program.

Sincerely yours  
Daniel Brent  
Superintende

## 'Now' Key To School

Albany — The stat schools need a "now" in their financial crisi to survive to benefit tr proposals of assistance creation the New York Committee has indicat

The committee, ma state's Catholic Bisho sage of the tuition aid ted jointly by 17 legis bodying one of severa viding assistance cite hensive review of the State Education Depa

"The proposal for tu single most effective p the current problem, members of the Stat the committee's secr: Tobin, said.

The degree of imm financial problem the ed the future of no education was note t te which said in the

"Parents and other Nonpublic Education the end of the road o less meaningful help is their efforts."

The tuition aid plar sidered by the Assem and would provide pay from \$50 to \$350 to f dren in nonpublic e secondary schools, det family's income. It in principle of the Sch

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