

The Family in the 70s

Be an Instrument of Change

The following are excerpts from a recent statement issued by the National Diocesan Family Life Directors.

Rapid social change is an obvious part of our contemporary world, and although change is often a sign of progress—at the human level it is also quite unsettling. Continued change creates tension for any institution, and no less so for the family.

Yet, the family retains a strength and resilience that enables it to deal with such a changing society.

It is clearer today than ever before, men of our time must determine the course of change, rather than merely be the subjects. What is needed at every level of society is stability coupled with dynamic leadership.

It is in this context that we consider: What is the role of the family in the decade ahead?

There are some who have proclaimed the end of the family as we traditionally know it. Others have relegated family life to a position of irrelevance. But the family is neither ended nor irrelevant.

Rather, we believe it can serve as the cutting edge in man's effort to adapt to new life styles, new demands and new roles.

There is an enduring quality to marriage and family life that can be traced to the pro-

vidential plan of God the Father. The free choice, promise of fidelity and personal gift that characterized the Covenant of Almighty God with His people is reflected in the spouses' mutual proclamation of self-giving. They proclaim, in the marriage covenant, the existence of the conjugal community, and the presence of Christ the Lord "Who comes to them and makes His abode with them."

In marriage, husband and wife call each other to a deepening awareness of their individual personhood and a perfecting of their talents and abilities. At the same time, they lead one another to a more profound involvement with Christ, the source of their married love.

Love in marriage is intimately connected with the birth and rearing of children. The mutual investment of self made by husband and wife is a natural basis for the more lasting testimony of their love-relationship: the children to whom they give life and continuing love.

Thus, the family — husband, wife, and children — serves as both "the school of deeper humanity" and "the manifestation of Christ's living presence in the world."

The creative aspect of marital love cannot be limited to the generative process, but must take into account the growth and development of each member of the family.

This is at the heart of the

concept of responsible parenthood.

The child — his coming and his growth — should be the result of a free and determined choice by his parents. The Second Vatican Council recognizes and affirms strongly that such choice must ultimately be that of the parents. This is to respect the freedom of the couple, the generosity and courage born of Christian married love, and the very real problems involved in the parenthood.

Within the past year, there have been proposals to establish a national policy limiting family size to two children. Such proposals seriously threaten the rights of married couples to decide the size of their families and the frequency of births, and they are symptomatic of a lack of confidence — bordering on despair — that our nation can effectively deal with its major social problems.

For our part, we reject the proposed national goal of the two-child family, and we reaffirm our own confidence that the American people have both the ability and the will to build a better world. Moreover, we believe that the vitality of family life will contribute much to achieving justice and peace in our society.

Despite the difficulties and seeming roadblocks in today's society, marriage remains very much a chosen state — selected by God as symbolic of His love relationship with His people, and with a power of witnessing to the best that is in man — un-

realized in quite the same manner in any other way of life.

In looking to the future, we make our own the words of Pope Paul in paying tribute to marriage and family life in our day: "A man and woman who

love one another, the smile of a child, the peace of a home: here is the wordless but astoundingly persuasive sermon in which every man can discern, shining through as it were, the reflection of another Love and Its infinite appeal."

Clip out and Save.

How to Have A Good Fight

Fights? Of course. They occur occasionally — unless the marriage partners are either spineless or saints.

The Cana Conference of Chicago offers ground rules for the encounter.

- Keep little things little. Don't make mountains out of molehills.
- Keep it to a discussion. A difference of opinion need not turn into an argument.
- Keep hold of tongue and temper. We always hurt the ones we love because we know their Achilles' heel.
- Keep it fair. Reveal your feeling honestly; but don't insult or insinuate.
- Keep it to yourselves. Two are enough for a good fight. Don't drag in in-laws, friends, neighbors or the kids.
- Keep it current. Don't rake up the past to support your present position.
- Keep talking. The silent treatment is deadly and defeating.
- Keep it short. Never let the sun set upon your anger.

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ROMANTIC NASSAU

A lively, young hotel. Air conditioned ocean front hotel, breakfast and dinner every day, lovely double bedded room with private bath, transportation from the airport to your hotel and return, and round trip jet air from Rochester to the balmy Bahamas and return.

Total, 8 days, 7 nights, Per Couple \$560.

SUNNY BERMUDA

Pink beaches, clear green ocean, cool white surf. Mmmm. Bermuda. Great hotel with private sandy beach and pool, airport / hotel / airport transportation, Rum Swizzle party, jet air from Rochester to Bermuda and return, a heavenly honeymoon.

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JOYOUS JAMAICA

Two hundred miles of mountainous beauty is yours. Unbelievably lovely hotel, great food morning and evening, gorgeous room with private bath, cocktail hour, Welcome Rum Punch, round trip airport/hotel/airport transportation, round trip jet air Rochester/Jamaica/Rochester.

Total, 8 days, 7 nights, Per Couple \$734.

VIVACIOUS VIRGIN ISLES

St. Thomas — Humming with that special island rhythm. Terrific hotel, your own magic room with private bath, gourmet breakfast and dinner daily, Welcome Cocktail, jet air Rochester/St. Thomas/Rochester, transportation airport / hotel / airport get together cocktail party, just plain wonderful.

Total, 8 days, 7 nights, Per Couple \$751.

SWINGING PUERTO RICO

Lit to a Spanish beat! Delightful hotel, charming room with private bath, round trip airport/hotel/airport transportation, cocktail party, jet air Rochester to Puerto Rico and return, breakfast every day at your hotel, PLUS dinner every night.

Total, 8 days, 7 nights, Per Couple \$730.

ST. CROIX — SUPER!

Super it is, with Sargent's special package. You'll love St. Croix, Queen of the Virgin Islands. A dream hotel houses your posh room. And oh those taste tempting breakfasts and dinners every day, cocktail party, transportation airport / hotel / airport jet air Rochester to St. Croix and return, and even a free round of golf, if you wish!

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