

SARAH CHILD
**All In
The Family**



Some quotable quotes:

- From our four-year-old son:
"You can wash my face if you promise not to get me wet."
- From a psychedelic sign on the door of the confessional at St. Jerome's Church:
"Happiness is having your sins forgiven."
- From our peripatetic first grader:
"Don't kiss me, I'm going with you."
- From my mother after her extended stay with my sister:
"I'll pay you a three-week visit, too, as soon as you have another baby."
- From our two-year-old when told her new cousin was to be named Ted:

"Oh, Cousin Teddy Bear!"

• From our son's nursery school teacher, displaying empathy for the kindergarten teacher who'll be coping with him next Fall:
"Try to run around a lot this summer, John."

• From a disgruntled acquaintance after shopping at one of the cheapie discount stores:
"They treat every customer as if he or she were a prospective thief."

From my husband after our two-year-old climbed over a five-foot chain link fence to a neighbor's pool area:
"Keep her inside the house! Better she breathe stale air than not breathe at all."



Regina Coeli Award

At the Court of Awards Ceremony held at St. Lawrence School on June 19, four sixth grade Girl Scouts were presented with the Regina Coeli Award by Father John Murphy, pastor. They are (l-r) Susanne Johnston, Susan Hoffman, Kathy Kretchmer, and Kathy Curtis.

Mental Health Commentary

By THE DE PAUL CLINIC

The teen years are a necessary and important part of life which always must be one of the most crucial periods of growing up. It should be a happy time, a meaningful interval of life, prelude to the stable years to come.

Psychologically, there are many types of changes in adolescents that occur which may lead to problems of adjustment. It is as if the mind becomes unglued. Old patterns of behavior are dropped and new ones are taken on; they, too, may be exchanged for other ways of thinking and feeling before the final form evolves.

This process of change is logical and actually has a pattern which is one of the marvels of life; it is very much like the flower changing into fruit. Watching it happen can be one of the best times in the whole process of child rearing. Certainly it has its comical moments, as well as its fretful and even frightening ones.

One complication for the adolescent is the sadness of the change — the loss of childhood and the fear of what is happening. The resulting moodiness — the withdrawing and irritability — is sometimes hard to cope with, especially since communication becomes vague and the flashes of irritation seem unprovoked and unjustified. Parents particularly become the object of seemingly irrational outbursts of anger. It is not unusual for girls in the early years of adolescence to go through a "I hate you, mother!" stage when unexpected anger flashes intensely, if not violently, and passes as rapidly as it came. Meanwhile mother is hurt, her anger mounts and she may retaliate, provoking her daughter to tears, guilt or more anger and a vicious cycle results, increasing the gap of misunderstanding. School performance may suffer as well as behavior in school and home.

An additional cause of the irrational anger of early adolescents is said to be related to their attempt to deny their own weaknesses and self contempt for their illogical demands. In other words, the feelings of helpless frustration to do something about their confused state is discharged as anger. This helps to increase the feelings of independence and adequacy as an individual, reducing the tendency to withdraw or become depressed. So the process, though frustrating, is not all bad.

Questions on children's mental health should be mailed to: Mental Health Commentary, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, 14604.

Courier-Journal

**Eire Unit
Endorses
Changes**

Dublin (RNS) — A study group set up by the Irish Theological Association to examine possible revisions in the Irish Republic's constitution recommended that the section prohibiting divorce be deleted and proposed the elimination of God's name from the preamble.

The study group, composed of four lawyers, a Roman Catholic theologian and a Protestant clergyman, also indicated that those articles recognizing a "special position" of the Catholic Church in Ireland are divisive and discriminatory on purely religious grounds.

Concerning Article 44, which deals with the special place of Catholicism in Irish life, the group said history proves the modern conviction that such favor or establishment is harmful to the state and even to the favored religion. It recommended deleting the entire section which includes the prohibition of divorce.

The group's recommendations immediately came in for strong criticism from Catholic Bishop Thomas Ryan of Clonfert and are expected to receive a scathing rebuke from other Catholic prelates in the country.

Bishop Ryan, who taught English to the late Pope John XXIII while he was attached to the Irish College in Rome, charged that the recommendations are aimed at "watering down" the constitution and changing Ireland from "a Christian country to ... a pagan country."

With respect to its recommendations on Article 44, the study group said it was not proposing the introduction of divorce, but merely the removal of the constitutional prohibition of any legislation allowing divorce.

The group recommended, however, that a Commission on Marriage Law be established before any serious change in legislation is introduced.

Any changes in the Irish Republic's constitution would have to be approved in a national referendum.

Bishop Ryan said he hoped the Church could count on the faith of the people to make proper use of the ballot box to insure that the pressure now aimed at destroying Ireland's Catholic heritage would not succeed.

Ireland's Prime Minister John Lynch last December indicated that his government would be willing to consider changes in the republic's constitution to make it more acceptable to Protestants, with a view to even eventual reunification of Northern Ireland with Eire.

Under a plan proposed by British Prime Minister Harold Wilson for eventual reunification of all Ireland, the Irish Republic would amend its Catholic-oriented constitution and legal code to make it more acceptable to Ulster Protestants. This would have involved an end to the Republic's ban on contraceptives and divorce, among other things.

Archbishop John C. McQuaid of Dublin, who led the Catholic opposition to any legalization of contraceptives, issued a pastoral flatly condemning such an action. He said the legalization of contraception would be "a curse on our country."

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