

Family Life in the '70s

One of the deepest concerns of our age is, perhaps, the future of family life. An unprecedented number of social critics have argued that family life as we have known it, or even as a value, is no longer tenable for modern man. In contrast, others strongly contend that family life is on the brink or reaching its Golden Age, especially since the possibility of more leisure time provides families with the opportunity to spend greater amounts of time together. Still others hold that the turmoil of the times will cause many

persons to seek greater security in stable family structures.

The outer limits of these considerations were dramatically articulated in the best seller, *Future Shock*. In his attempt to predict the uncharted shocks of the twenty-first century, the author, Alvin Toffler, listed a host of possibilities for the future of family life. Among those listed were the "trial" or "probationary" marriages as well as communal marriages, both of which have acquired a limited vogue already. Another novel concept presented, is the "serial" marriage, a pattern of successive temporary marriages tailored to meet the growth needs of the marriage partners and children. Hiring out professional parents is another possibility. For the purpose of preserving their personal freedom or career opportunities, spouses may determine to rent a "pro-family" to rear their children, retaining only visiting rights.

The Slot Man

A lot of people opposed to the continuing Indochina War are not willing, for a variety of reasons, to march in demonstrations and even more are averse to breaking laws as a sign of protest.



The objections to the war on the part of many elected officials, organizations on the periphery of decision-making, such as newspapers, religious bodies and peace activists have fallen on ears which if not deaf possess convenient hearing.

The situation has resulted in anger, frustration, and polarization. What to do? Somewhat along the line of lighting a candle, Ward Whipple, a Rochester attorney, has come up with an interesting

Such impersonalization of family relationships sadly points to the lack of genuine Christian love and concern. It causes us to reflect upon family life and reaffirm our judgment that family is the place where lives are C A R E — fully integrated or condemned to hopeless fragmentation. Love and a serious effort at nurturing its growth is the mainspring of Christian family life.

In an age that challenges the value of marriage and family life, it is important to recall our fundamental Christian heritage. It is one which preserves the sacramental dignity of marriage and the integrity of family life. The sacrament draws upon Christ's presence. The healing power of His love makes present and strengthens in a mysterious way the tender caring and responsiveness two people hold for each other.

Marriage, as a sacrament, celebrates the initial love two people share and the promise of hope that their love holds for the future. Their pledge of fidelity to each other is not to sustain their love, merely enduring the irksome moments of the tomorrows. Rather, their commitment embraces a sensitive respect for the other, valuing the partner's worth. Such affirmation generates a deeper sense of mutual giving, making the marriage partners capable of greater faithfulness in all things, large and small.

It is the strength of their love and openness to greater love which prepares a couple for their role as parents. Through the depth of their mutual love, they create new life and generously accept the many sacrifices and demands of parenthood. The continuation and extension of their faithfulness provide the atmosphere of harmony and love which is so necessary for

the rearing of children. It is when marriage is viewed as contract, specifying duties and obligations, that the most menial tasks become burdensome responsibilities, devoid of spontaneity and joy. Whatever the prevailing atmosphere, whether it is one of goodness and joy, or one of selfishness, children absorb its outstanding characteristics.

Subsequently, it falls upon parents to bring their children up to be responsible and mature citizens of the Church and world. The sacrament of marriage enables a husband and wife to keep themselves open to the gift and power of Christ's love. Openness to the grace of the sacrament will strengthen the spouses' love, deepen family harmony, enhance the parents' skill in rearing children and increase their delight in each other and their children.

Likewise, Christ's love is the foundation for true authority. There is an analogy to be drawn for family life from Christ's authority as service in love. Family life is a community of partnership. Children should be helped to mature gradually and to share in family decisions and social responsibility. This is best achieved in a loving atmosphere fostering initiative and freedom. It is done by maintaining that delicate balance between misguided permissiveness, protectiveness and excessive restrictiveness. However difficult, parents should encourage children to greater independence even at the risk of their making mistakes but within the context of providing their children with the opportunity of learning from their experiences. Young people need encouragement and a fair amount of freedom, with gradually decreasing supervision.

By Carmen Viglucci

How One Man Seeks World Peace

answer which he calls a self-multiplying peace petition.

I don't want to tarnish Whipple's idea by comparing it with those greedy get-rich chain letters of yesteryear which anyway are banned by the Post Office. His plan follows the basic procedure but since no money is involved it is completely unobjectionable with postal authorities. Furthermore, it is perfectly legal under the First Amendment's right to petition.

His petition is simple. It says, "We, the People, Petition Congress to: Stop all United States support of the war in Indochina. Stop spending our \$\$\$ money for the war."

The person who starts the petition signs his name on line A. He then gets four persons to sign it before he mails it to his congressman. Each of the four signers then does likewise. If the petition gets to the

fifth stage, 3,905 people will have petitioned Congress, according to Whipple. By the 10th stage, he said, the figure will have reached 12,207,130.

Whipple started his project last summer. It was mentioned in a national newsletter and he received requests from 14 states. He also explained on a local radio show. Momentum was building until Henry Kissinger's "peace is at hand" statement made it all seem unnecessary.

Recent events have spurred Whipple into reinstituting the petition. Anyone interested should contact him by mail at 249 Castlebar Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14610. Send a stamped, self-addressed long envelope and he will send you petition blanks.

The time is appropriate as Congress is now considering proposals to cut off war spending.

Editorial Abortion — No Subject for Hack Writing

As peace talks wax and wane in Paris, as lawmakers return to their desks on capitol hills both in Albany and in Washington, and as every issue seems to take on earth-shattering significance, one must take pains to be on the watch for low-flying cliches.

Now, it's no easy task to refrain from using phrases and words such as "grounded" and "getting off the ground" when referring to the on-going dispute over the SST. And many would be without words if they could not call Howard Hughes "mystery man" or describe the Middle East as "strife-torn."

And sportswriters must be straining at the bit for next football season when they can once again intone, "The Pack is back" — depending on how the Green Bay team fares on the gridiron, and we all know now that the football takes funny bounces.

Unfortunately, however, there is very little humor when hackneyed phrases are used in discussing problems of the depth of abortion. Thus when a local newspaper, with the writing expertise it commands, worries editorially that the state will "slide back into the dark ages" if liberalized abortion is repealed, criticism is in order.

After some four years of intense and emotional debate over liberalized abortion, reasonable people on both sides of the issue agree that it must be discussed in medical, legal, and, yes, moral terms, but there no longer is reason to resort to emotional and trite catch-phrases.

Even this editorial, concerned only peripherally with the issue, may be a waste of time and space. We, however

think it is necessary to emphasize that with the start of the legislative season we all should resolve to treat the abortion issue in a dignified and civilized manner. An issue so emotionally vital to so many people should not be aggravated by unnecessary abrasive and brittle treatment.

Those not trained in rhetoric may be excused if their emotions tumble forth wrapped comfortably in cliché. Those professionally responsible for the language have no such cushion.

Obviously, there is no connection with the pressing 1973 problem of liberalized abortion, and the Dark Ages. Such trite phraseology serves in no way to illuminate the problem and is a disservice to all.