

The Hungers of the Family

Part I — The Family Today

Change is a word that is used to characterize the times in which we live. This is the reality of our lives and it is a condition which can disturb and trouble us. But change is also that which keeps us from growing stale.

As change characterizes much of life, it is not surprising that many who study the family have come to see that it is a system that is always changing. Like other changes, the movement in the family may cause anxiety but it also insures growth.

Families go through stages of development:

a. the beginning family — adjusting to each other as husband and wife.

b. the expecting family — pregnancy and the roles of parents.

c. the childbearing family — redefining responsibilities and expanding the family communication system.

d. the pre-school child family — beginning the education of the child.

e. the school-age child family — providing for the child's activity and the parents' privacy.

f. the teenage child family — providing facilities for greatly differing needs both of the teenager, of other children and of the parents.

The Church recognizes that the family unit is one of the cornerstones of a healthy society. To lend support to that idea, it has established organizations such as Catholic Family Center and the Family Life Office. This series of articles, prepared by the two offices, will explain their programs directed at family enrichment. Each article will explore one segment of the program.

g. the young adult family — widening the family circle through the release of grown children and including new members by marriage.

h. the middle-aged family — drawing closer as a married couple.

i. the aging family — adjustment to retirement, retirement income while continuing to find meanings in life.

At each stage there are different questions asked, new expectations and possible crises. For example, the young adult family presents particular role changes with family members. Children leave home and begin to take on new responsibilities independent of parents. For the adults, their roles as parents begin to diminish and they begin to rediscover their roles as husband and wife.

This pattern of growth and change is part of every human family. It is something which unites us all.

Families can be in various stages at the same time and this brings both richness and complexity to individual lives. If their children are spread out in age, they can be going

through teenage years with all its problems at the same time that they go through early school years problems with other children.

There is also the possibility of being in two different family cycles: A young couple can be involved in their own developing cycle at the same time they are working within the aging years of their parents.

In seeing the family as a changing organism, rich potential for growth of individuals can be possible. The family becomes a reservoir of tradition. Individual members can discern a pattern in their lives.

The richness, the complexity, the joy, the sorrow, the hopes, the despair — all that is at the heart of things — emerges in the growing life of the family.

For information about this and other family education programs Rev. Thomas Hanson of Catholic Family Center (716-546-7220) or Father Robert Collins of the Office of Family Life (716-546-3630) should be contacted.

NEXT WEEK — Communication.

TEACHING LECTURE

The impact of television on children, and new approaches in teaching, will be discussed here tonight by Sesame Street's Susan, who, in real life, is Loretta Long, Ph.D. Ed. The free public lecture is scheduled for 8 p.m. in SE Basil Hall 135, St. John Fisher College, courtesy of the student cultural affairs commission.

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

[Fifth in a series]

With the generous permission of the following people I share with you the names of some of those who are familiar with Natural Family Planning. This is not the old Rhythm System. Many of the people below teach NFP and are currently conducting classes; some will provide referrals. All will provide understanding, information and guidance.

Speaking personally and as a parent I disapprove of any sex education course offered by a Catholic school system which fails to teach NFP. Family size can be regulated without the interference of planning agencies, Planned Parenthood or the federal government. All of whom in my estimation have lost respect for the sacredness of human life. All of whom fund and/or provide abortions. And all of whom profit from it in some way. The only profits from NFP are spiritual, physical and emotional. For the family.

Those who teach NFP:

Chub & JoAnn Bienvenue
55 Swift St.
Waterloo, N.Y. 13165

George & Michelle Harer
265 Dorking Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14610

Mrs. Emily Herring
RD 4 Cherry Street Road
Auburn, N.Y. 13021

Emanuel V. Li, M.D.
Taylor-Brown Medical Center
Waterloo, N.Y. 13165

Mrs. Daniel McManus R.N.
369 Seneca Road
N. Hornell, N.Y. 14843

Dick & Mary Beth O'Hara
265 Carling St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14610

Richard & Sheila Prinzing
112 South Ave.
Webster, N.Y. 14580

Joe & Dolores Smith
51 Glenbriar Drive
Rochester, N.Y. 14616

Lon & Carol Snook
22 West Street
Waterloo, N.Y. 13615

For referrals:

Father Robert Collins
Office of Family Life
50 Chestnut Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

Mrs. Nancy Murphy
P.O. Box 8450
Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Father Edward Palumbos
95 E. Genesee Street
Auburn, N.Y. 13021

Father Albert Shamon
25 Center Street
Waterloo, N.Y. 13165

Father Louis Siranni
90 Melrose Road
Auburn, N.Y. 13021

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