

Dolores Curran



Talks With Parents

Teaching Family Manners

I was visiting with a valued older friend the other day who was telling me how difficult it is for a person her age, widowed, to visit families with growing children. "There seems to be so much confusion," she said. "It can make a person my age nervous. Often when I'm invited to someone's home, the children don't even say hello. They walk right by me as if I'm not there."

To make her feel better, I told her it happens to parents, too, but she was right in putting her finger on an area of neglect today — that of family manners.

We rarely dwell on family manners as a parental responsibility, so focussed are we on individual respect and behavior within the family circle, but the collective etiquette and consideration of the family toward others is a pretty good index of its behaviors within.

It isn't easy to foster family etiquette in today's culture. Yet, society shows the strains brought about by a void in this area. There's much confusion on what is proper, but here are a few rules I consider minimal in establishing a family sense of etiquette and concern for others. It's by no means complete, but maybe your family would like to take a minute to check its family manners index, together so that it has an idea of how others judge your hospitality and consideration for others.

1. When someone visits the home, every member makes it a point to come in and say hello without being prodded, begged or threatened.

2. Every member is responsible for seeing that guests are comfortable regardless whose friend is the guest.

3. Unpleasant and/or private family matters are not discussed in front of friends. It embarrasses them.

4. Television and loud music are turned off without protest when company enters the door.

5. Children are expected to listen to "boring" adult conversation at an adult gathering and parents to "silly" talk at a children's gathering until it's polite to be excused. Facial expressions and body language indicating extreme boredom is unacceptable. So is interrupting by either children or adults.

6. Each member of the family introduces new friends to each member of the family, not to the adults only.

7. The family as a unit does not disturb others with loud talking, music or inappropriate language in a public place like a park, beach or the stadium.

8. The family makes room for others in the pew, bleachers or bus without being told to move over by some authority.

9. The family doesn't push ahead of others in line at the fast-food outlet or intrude on others' territory at the beach, campground or park.

The family has a sense of responsibility for others' needs, be it automatically helping a lost child, controlling noise during nap-time, or asking a stranger in need if there's any way the family can help.

After you've scored yourselves as a family on the above points, share the differences among family members on scoring. If you have extra time, write a few rules of your own. Talk about family manners and post the list for future checking.

Priests Death Toll Near Record

By John Dash

The diocese has lost more priests to death so far this year than in any comparable period in the last decade, the chief personnel officer of the diocese confirmed last week.

In addition, a review of the necrological tables in last year's edition of "The Sheaf," a publication of St. Bernard's Seminary, reveals that 1958 may have been the only other year in which such a large

number of priests passed away.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, director of the Personnel Division, said last week that the diocese has lost more "active" clergymen through death in 1980 than in any other of his 12 years in office.

Fifteen priests have died since Feb. 2 this year. In all of 1958, according to the necrology in The Sheaf, 15 priests also passed away.

Those priests who have died this year are:

- Father Henry Atwell
- Father Vincent Collins
- Msgr. John M. Duffy
- Father Joseph Gentili, CPPS
- Father Edward Hartmann
- Father William Deyereaux
- Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty
- Father Edward Shamon
- Father Albert J. Oscar

- Father Joseph Beatini
- Father Francis Taylor
- Father Michael Biondi, CSB
- Msgr. George Schmitt
- Father George Wood
- Father Michael Wesley, CSB

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Police Unit Plans Mass

The Monroe County Police Holy Name Society has scheduled its annual Mass and banquet for Saturday, Dec. 6. Mass will be celebrated at Holy Cross Church, 4492 Lake Ave., at 7 p.m., with the banquet following in the school hall.

Members of the society must purchase tickets, at \$5, before noon, Wednesday, Dec. 3. Checks, made out to Police Holy Name Society, should be mailed to the Town of Greece Police Department, 400 Island Cottage Rd., Rochester, N.Y., 14612.

According to statistics cited by Martin Toombs in his recent Courier-Journal special series, "The Priest Shortage and Its Challenge," "the net loss of priests has been about five each of the past four years."

The effect of the loss, Bishop Hickey said last week, serious as it is, is also somewhat mitigated in terms of available personnel by the fact that fewer priests have requested laicization in the past year.

The Church traditionally devotes its attention to prayer for the dead in November.

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The question being debated is whether there will be enough through the 1980's. The reserve is shrinking. And New York State officials have made the decision to build fewer new power plants than utilities throughout the state had asked for.



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