

Is Getting Tough True Love?

By Joan M. Smith

They're fighting back. Many parents contending with those difficult child-rearing years are turning to the self-support program, Toughlove, so that they are not struggling alone.

According to the national movement's guide manual, "Toughlove," written by Phyllis and David York, professional counselors, "Toughlove is a solution for families that are being torn apart by unacceptable behavior."

In the book's summation, the authors wrote, "You believed that being nice, kind, fair, friendly, sometimes hurtful and mostly affectionate with your kids, they would grow up to be the same way with you. We were not prepared for such a rapidly changing culture full of distractions like dope, violence, and a peer group that means more to our

children than a home and family."

Dr. Shirley Hunter, an anesthesiologist at Genesee Hospital and co-coordinator with Helen Battaglia of the Fairport /Webster /Penfield group that uses the Toughlove manual, agreed with the effect of outside influences upon the family.

"Family problems," she said, "have roots in our culture. Parental authority has decreased."

Ms. Rose Peterson, who, along with Ms. Suzanne Hullfish, coordinates the Brockport /Spencerport /LeRoy /Hilton /Bergen Toughlove organization, was also quick to point to the "outside factors working against the family."

"We know that with kids and adults there are those who are followers and those that are leaders and that the followers can be affected by

their leaders," she said.

To counteract what Toughlove and its adherents consider disruptive influences and behavior, a number of parents in Monroe County and surrounding areas are restructuring their parental responsibilities around Toughlove. They are setting bottom lines (limits beyond which a child cannot go), setting structures, and allowing teenagers to experience consequences resulting from their behavior. They are making statements like, "I will not pay my teenagers fines." "I will not allow my runaway back in the home until we have worked out a way for us to live together without running."

However, according to Dr. Hunter, it is not just the parent faced with an incorrigible child that seeks the Toughlove philosophy, but those who want definite guidelines for rearing children. Bottom lines are set for basic home cooperation dealing with telephone rights and keeping rooms clean to the final ultimatum when faced with an enormously difficult problem where everything has been tried. That ultimatum, in Dr. Hunter's words, is "We want you to live in this house, there is a place for you, but you will have to follow the rules."

Dr. Hunter described this ultimatum as the hardest thing to do, but said that through the Toughlove program there is a support family waiting to take the

child in and act as a third party in negotiating the child's eventual return home, ready to abide by the rules.

Neither the Brockport nor Webster group is a formal member of the national Toughlove organization which is based in Sellersville, Pa., but the national guidelines are used at meetings. The Brockport group meets at 7:30 p.m. Mondays at the Brockport High School. The Webster organization also meets on Monday evenings at the United Church of Christ on Klem Road. There is also a Churchville/Chili/Gates group under the direction of Ms. Barbara Hunt.

Adoration

First Thursday adoration will be noon to 5 p.m., April 1, at Blessed Sacrament Church. Rosary will be prayed at 12:15 p.m. and benediction will be celebrated before the regular 5:20 p.m. Mass. "Let us take this opportunity to contemplate the terrible sufferings of Jesus on our behalf so that we might partake in his glorious Resurrection and then go on to live with Him forever," said Wilma M. Higgs, organizer of the rites.

They Said It Right

Chris Finn, Kim Dramaritsch, Lisa Shoemaker and Christine Szych, freshmen at Our Lady of Mercy, have qualified to participate in the state finals for the New York State Forensic League on Friday and Saturday, April 2-3, in Albany. The girls competed in the New York State Regional Tournament at Aquinas Institute on March 6.

In the competitions, Chris took sixth place in oral interpretation; Kim won first

place in declamation; Lisa took the second-place slot in declamation; and Christine was second in original oratory. The girls are all members of the school's Speech Club.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

K. of C. Centennial

Continued from Page 1 provide easier access for scholars to ancient sources;

- Campaigning against legalized abortion;

- Establishing an education trust fund; and

- Disbursing last year alone, \$26 million for charitable, benevolent and youth activities. In addition, more than 8 million man-hours were given to community service.

Following the Mass at the Cathedral, the bishop and the knights gathered at Sweets Party House for a dinner at which State Deputy Harold F. Granger spoke and during which the bishop was presented with a bourse check from each council in the chapter.

In the Southern Tier, Elmira Council 229 celebrated with a dinner-dance last Wednesday in the Hibernian Center.

The keynote speaker was Thomas Hovnick, advocate of the state organization of knights. Donald Blandford, grand knight, presided.

A recently published history of the knights, written by Christopher J. Kauffman, states that one of the principal services performed by the organization in its early history was to Americanize the many thousands of Catholic immigrant men that joined the society.

Rather than harking to ethnic and cultural ties in Europe as many other fraternal societies did in that era, Kauffman said, the knights emphasized the blessings of freedom and

opportunities in the American social and political structure.

By choosing Columbus as the patron, the knights stressed Catholic legitimacy in a culture that was still predominantly Protestant and they instilled in new members a strong pride in being both American and Catholic.

In light of this, Kauffman observed, the knights established a permanent chair of American history at Catholic University of America in 1904 so that historical research could reveal the many contributions to American culture and well-being by the early Catholic missionaries and settlers.

In the same spirit, the K of C set up recreational facilities along the Mexican border when U.S. troops were stationed there because of Pancho Villa's incursion into U.S. territory.

The program expanded during World War I when the knights invested \$40 million to provide the same kind of facilities to meet the recreational and spiritual needs of American and Canadian servicemen both at home and abroad.

Kauffman also notes that the knights have played a role as an anti-defamation society for the Catholic Church. In this connection, the organization carried on a long battle with the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s and 30s. In Mexico at that time, too, the knights established a \$1 million fund to help combat the persecution of Catholicism in that country and to aid fleeing refugees.

Also during that era, the knights led a successful fight against an Oregon law which would have prevented children from attending parochial schools.

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