

# All in the Family

By NANCY WEST

The parent-child relationship has received a one-sided treatment from writers. Most attention has been devoted to what parents teach their children, little to what children teach their parents.

Every mother knows the complete surrender of self which occurs when her first-born is placed in her arms. Her former ego is permanently shrunk, her prayer life permanently revived.

Even though Baby may sleep all night from the beginning, its mother never does again. She has advanced in will power, thanks to him, to Night Tension, a condition outwardly resembling sleep but from which she can leap upright and land with her head on her infant's chest. The N.T. reaction is often triggered by quiet breathing or a small snort.

Both parents benefit character-wise from the first child, of course, but too much notice has been taken of poor New Father and his sufferings while New Mother hovers over the bassinet. Has Irma ditched Gerald for Junior? Don't Irma and Gerald go dancing anymore?

Has anyone realized how much Gerald is profiting from this upheaval of his domestic universe? Let him suffer a little if he wants to, but most new dads have little time to stand watching their wives watch the baby. Dad is either outside hanging up diapers or downtown making enough money to meet education policy payments.

Dancing? Now Baby has taught his parents a new concept of pleasure: serving his needs. His crooked, tentative smile at four weeks (yes, he is precocious) sends these two soaring to new heights of joy.

All the conquests of muscle and mind that Baby makes in his first year fill his parents with pride, but it is not the same pride stripped from them in suffering at his advent. It is pride in him, and it is founded on wide-eyed awareness of the goodness of God in trusting them with such a treasure.

When Baby is two years old, his parents' humility and trust grow through exercise. They are often heard praying aloud, "Give me strength," and "O Lord, help us!" Their heartfelt cries may follow the 49th replacing of all the pots and pans or a fruitless search for the car keys.

Parental suffering is usually minimal when the child leaves for his first day of school. Real suffering begins on their first night of P.T.A. Vast opportunities lie before them for putting aside selfish interests in favor of Group Purpose. Through the school years they are fated to follow their children, a sort of protective rear guard given to panel discussions, cake sales, workshops on nutrition, and other enabling good works.

The tendency of children to get older and older is a deterrent to their parents' vanity. "Only her hairdresser knows for sure," cannot be said of the bottle blonde in the company of young Gerald who has just registered Democratic.

When, then, aren't most parents quite saintly? Is it perhaps because after all these years of growth and humility, parents become grandparents? And there is no help for pride in grandchildren. It is pure deep, and incorruptible because any flaw in the little darlings is naturally attributable to the other side of the family.

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Reader, dear, when are you going to write? 3352 Willow Oak Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28209

## Vocation Encampment

All boys from the sixth through the twelfth grade who are interested in information about the life of a priest are invited to a four day session at the Diocesan Camp. The encampment begins on August 21st. For information write this newspaper.

## K. of C. Apostolate

The State Council of the Knights of Columbus will expand their program of Catholic Information Advertising for the fourth successive year. A series of fifty-six advertisements will be carried in eight newspapers throughout the State. Booklets and information on various phases of Catholic belief and practice will be provided to inquirers at no cost or obligation.

The cities where the advertising will be placed are: Albermarle, Elkin, Wallace, Hendersonville, Ahoskie, Lillington Morehead City and Shelby. William W. Scott, State Warden, will continue for the third year as State Catholic Advertising Chairman.

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**DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS** pictured above (l. to r.): FRONT ROW: Joe Vetter; Bill Parker; Melvin Wetzel; Dennis Ficken; Fr. John Wall, Rector of St. John's Hall; Bishop Waters; Larry Smith; Wilbur Thomas; Joe McCarthy; SECOND ROW: Professor Louis Palanca, Harry Webb; Pat Williams; Joe Edelen; Jim Ross; Jim Butler; Rev. Mr. Alan Dash; George Stallings; Joe Gaul; Charles Williams; THIRD ROW: Pete Harmatuk; David Williams; Bill Pitts; Rev. Mr. James Waters; Tom Mattox; Joe Lusk; John O'Connor; and Pete Finnerty. George Kloster of Clayton, North Carolina was absent from this year's session since he is studying at the North American College in Vatican City.

The twenty-four diocesan seminarians have just completed a two week Latin Clinic under the direction of Mr. Louis Palanca, Chairman of the Department of Classics at the University of North Dakota. Fifteen of the twenty-five seminarians are residents of North Carolina.

## Msgr. Stack of Extension Speaks At St. Raphael Dedication

St. Raphael's Church of Millbrook, N.C. will be blessed and Rev. John Richardson installed as first pastor on Sunday, July 10th. Bishop Vincent S. Waters will preside at the blessing and installation at the new parish seven miles north of Raleigh.

Monsignor Kenneth G. Stack, Acting President of the Church Extension Society of America will deliver the sermon at the ceremonies which will take place at the 11:00 A.M. Sunday Mass. The Extension Society has been instrumental in providing contributions to the new Church. Mrs. Joseph Hartnett of New York has contributed \$20,000 to the modern Church which was designed by the firm of Holloway-Reeves.

The Church is set in a property comprising thirty-five acres. A building dating back to 1820, which once served as a roadside tavern, has been refurbished and will serve as a rectory. The parish will serve some two hundred families, most of whom have come into the State over the past five years. The cost of the new Church was \$150,000.

Monsignor Stack, head of the Extension Society will be a guest of the Bishop for a few days. The

Extension Society, with offices in Chicago has been a generous benefactor to the home mission Churches in America. It is estimated that almost a million dollars in Church construction has been contributed to North Carolina by Church Extension; they have been equally generous to other American mission efforts.

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