

'Youths need special attention'

By JOHN P. LARKIN

Every nation and race shares a common interest: its concern for its youth. Not only do parents recognize their responsibility to their children's needs, but all of society realizes that young people must receive special attention. If this is not at all times completely true, it certainly should be. Not only would parents be making a terrible mistake but all of us would be defeating our own purpose if our youth were not given a high priority.

If we ignore the training and guidance of our young people, history will condemn us for their adult mistakes. So a very important question must be answered, not only by parents, but by all of society, as to whether we are doing all that should be done for the youth of today. It will do no good to answer this question by saying that it is too difficult to deal with the young. No matter how much of a challenge it is, a society must

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fulfill its responsibility to the young. If the adults of the past had not done their job, society today would show serious signs of decay.

There are many areas that have to do with the training of the young, both in the home and in society. Perhaps we can say that some of these areas are receiving attention. However, there is an area of training that in many cases is terribly neglected, and even ignored. Not only do the parents of these children share the blame for this, but also society in general tolerates and even seems at times to approve.

Unfortunately for the involved parents and all of society the area of training that is neglected is the most important and necessary one for young people. Sometimes a great deal of ex-

pense and sacrifice is given to insure a young person to be a success in the arts and sciences. But sadly, so often the moral, religious and spiritual training is hardly given passing attention.

We don't have to wait for the future to discover the consequences of the absence of moral, religious and spiritual training. Reading back over the pages of history we find that decay and corruption went hand in hand with paganism, indifferentism and materialism. Also in history we observe that whenever religion and morality were given a high priority in the lives of families and nations, it was then that peace, harmony and success prevailed.

One of the chief reasons why adults are not fulfilling their responsibility to train the young about God is that the adults are blinded by greed and a feeling of self-sufficiency. They have quickly forgotten the struggle of past generations and their never-ending dependence on God, not only for success but even survival. So many in our society today find it easy to be doubting Thomases but so few reform to be repentent Thomases.

The youth of today are too important to be neglected and deprived of their right to know and love God. By word and example parents and all society must fulfill its obligation to lift up the minds and souls of our youth to God.

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