

Ask Mason & Teo



I can't stand living with dad

Aloha Matsudas,

After graduating from high school, I went to school and worked on the Mainland. I'm a single guy in my late 20s and I recently moved back home to live with my parents in Hawaii. My younger sister is married with two kids and they also live at home with my parents. My father treats my brother-in-law as though he can do no wrong, while he seems to pick on me for every little thing. I want to move out but I can't make it on my own financially. I get along with my mom but I can't stand living with my dad. How should I treat the situation? (Grown-up)

Dear Grown-up,

Ah, the joys of growing up! It is recognizing that no matter what happens, your family will always be your family! To be human is, by definition, to be interdependent, to rely on others for the support and assistance needed to grow to full life. Family members depend upon one another and have an enormous impact on one another's growth.

Dealing with young adults for many years, we have learned that change and transition seem to be the only constants in a young adult life. Change is always difficult and disruptive, so we resist it even when we know it's unavoidable. But like it or not, we must face change, embrace it, and find a new family balance.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "as long as a child lives at home with his parents, the child should obey his parents in all that they ask of him when it is for his good or that of the family. But if a child is convinced in conscience that it would be morally wrong to obey a particular order, he must not do so." (CCC 2217)

The fourth commandment, "honor your father and mother," reminds adult children of their responsibilities toward their parents. As much as we can, we must give them material and moral support in old age and in times of distress, loneliness or illness. Scripture puts it so eloquently: "My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fails, be considerate with him; revile him not in the fullness of your strength. A blasphemer is he who despises his father; accused of his Creator, he who angers his mother." (Sirach 3:12-13, 16)

Out of gratitude, we should respect our parents, no matter what, because they have given us the gift of life. Scripture reiterates, "With your whole heart honor your father, your mother's birthpangs forget not. Remember, of these parents you were born; what can you give them for all they gave you?" (Sirach 7:27-28)

Apparently, it is God's will that gave you your dad. In practicing obedience to your earthly father, we learn to be obedient to our heavenly Father. It also fosters harmony in family life including relationships between siblings and with others in society.

When a young adult returns to live with his or her parents, as in all family dynamics, it can run the gamut from being extremely stressful and damaging to being rewarding and fulfilling. The parents take on a new role, no longer treating their son or daughter as a child but as an adult sharing their home. When a parent/child relationship can evolve into an adult/adult relationship, something very fine and rewarding is accomplished.

Begin by talking to your dad about your concerns. When conflict arises, adult-to-adult expectations need to be spelled out. Both sides need to have a clear understanding of what the other requires. Always keep the lines of communication open. Only open and honest communication will assure a relationship full of love, respect, freedom and responsibility.

Follow the example of Jesus Christ when he walked the face of the earth, He always honored his heavenly Father, his earthly father Joseph, and his mother, the Blessed Ever Virgin Mary, by being obedient and surrendering his will. The designs of God — what he chooses to do, his will, his actions and his grace — are all one and the same thing, all working together to help us achieve holiness.

Holiness is produced in us by the will of God and our acceptance of it. We do not need to understand the designs of God, but only obey them. Offer up these trials to the Lord. Pray for your family and look closely at the cross of Christ that you may appreciate the salvific sufferings of your own daily cross.

Mason and Teo Matsuda are parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Ewa Beach and have served in youth and young adult ministries for years. Write to them at yaadvice@yahoo.com.



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Big Island young adults go up the mountain in pursuit of holiness

By **Chrislyn Villena**
Special to the Herald

"Do not be afraid to say 'yes' to Jesus, to find your joy in doing his will, giving yourself completely to the pursuit of holiness." With those words Pope Benedict XVI urged a new generation at World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney to "transform the world through the power of the Holy Spirit."

Bishop Larry Silva has also made the youth and young adults a top priority in his diocesan strategic plan. And our pastor Father Thomas Purayidathil readily supports the growth of our youth and young adult ministries in our parish.

Do you see a recurring theme? The youth and young adults are the keys to the future of this church, but it is important to nurture them here and now.

To help achieve this goal some Big Island churches took a few of their young adults to Mauna Kea State Park for an overnight camping trip, July

25-26. Many had never been up to Mauna Kea before, let alone spend the night. In all, 13 young adults from Hilo, Pahala and Pahoa said "yes" to Jesus' call and ventured up the mountain to deepen their faith.

Diocese of Honolulu seminarians Anthony Rapozo and David Soares guided discussions on topics such as: "How should I pray," "How should I read the Bible," "Where in the Bible can I find topics like lust, commitment and fear," and "What are the differences between Christian churches?"

Using Scripture, Anthony led the campers on a meditation of the rosary's sorrowful mysteries. At a small campfire, we roasted marshmallows for s'mores and drank hot chocolate. Card games and a jam session completed the fellowship. Then after a very cold evening, the young adults welcomed the warmth of the morning sun with a prayer service.

The event was organized to bond the young Catholics into a community of support to develop closer relation-

ships with God, to develop leaders who will bring weekly activities to their own parishes, and to give them ideas with which to build their own communities.

Finally, the overnight trip was a wonderful way to send the young adults forth with confidence to say "yes" to Jesus as the Apostles did at Pentecost. The retreat gave me time to seek God in the wondrous landscape he created in the fellowship of my peers. We all left with a sense of connection to God and our ministry.

Jesus, send us your spirit and renew the face of the earth. You know our strengths and weaknesses. Transform us into messengers of your Gospel for those who yearn for you. You know our history, with its beautiful and painful experiences. Help us to be untiring promoters of a society based on love, justice and peace. You know our longing for love and community. Make us instruments of unity and service, especially for those who are weak and those who are lonely. Amen.

Chrislyn Villena is the youth and young adult minister at St. Joseph Parish, Hilo. The 27-year-old is married with a four-year-old son and 15-month-old daughter.

Saints under 35

Jacques Fesch, 27, convicted murderer

Jonathan Luxmoore
Catholic News Service

Born into a wealthy French banking family, Jacques Fesch was expelled from school for laziness and misconduct. In 1954 he tried to rob a currency dealer, and he eventually was executed for killing a police officer who was pursuing him. He is now a candidate for sainthood.

Fesch recorded his spiritual journey of his prison conversion in a journal which was preserved by his wife, whom he married in a Catholic ceremony a few days before being beheaded at the age of 27 in La Sante Prison in 1957.



Jacques Fesch

to the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes in 2009.

"Of course, it would be unprecedented to beatify an executed murderer — the only comparison would

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"But Fesch considered his own execution a gift from God, a blessing by divine providence," said Duchesne. "The message is that God still cares for someone who's been legally sentenced to death and executed. No one is so abandoned and rejected as to be beyond God's love."

Writings by the killer, who described his prison conversion as "a violent wind that passes without anyone knowing from where it came," later formed the basis for three regularly reprinted best-sellers, "Light Over the Scaffold," "Cell 18," and "In Five Hours I shall See Jesus."

Movie reviews

The Rocker (Fox Atomic): Musical adventures of a likable lunkhead (Rainn Wilson) who, 20 years after being dumped by his band mates just before they catapulted to stardom, gets a second chance at fame when he joins a group made up of his socially challenged nephew (Josh Gad), a too-cool-to-smile guitarist (Emma Stone) and an angst-ridden singer-songwriter (Teddy Geiger), his bond with the last being strained by a budding romance with the lad's mother (Christina Applegate). Director Peter Cattaneo's sporadically funny comedy touches on themes of maturity and reconciliation and, though its values are somewhat hedonistic, this is largely a matter of talk, since Mom goes on tour as chaperone. Brief rear nudity, nonmarital cohabitation, sexual and scatological humor, one use of the f-word and some crass language, and drug and venereal disease references. A-III (PG-13)

Mirrors (Fox/Regency): Clunky, contrived horror tale in which an ex-policeman turned security guard (Kiefer Sutherland) finds himself, his estranged wife (Paula Patton) and their children (Cameron Boyce and Erica Gluck) endangered by the demons who inhabit the many mirrors of the burned-out New York department store where he works. Except for one over-the-top scene, director Alexandre Aja keeps the violence relatively subdued, but his film grows tedious quickly. Some graphic violence, brief rear and partial nudity, some rough and crude language, and occasional use of profanity. L (R)

Tropic Thunder (DreamWorks): Relentlessly vulgar and only fitfully funny action comedy about a group of washed-up movie actors (Ben Stiller, Jack Black and Robert Downey Jr. among them) who think they're making a big-budget war movie in Vietnam, but actually find themselves facing off against ruthless heroin dealers. Co-writer and director Stiller's premise must have seemed better on paper, but de-



CNS photo/Overture

Henry Poole Is Here (Overture): Moving little fable of a depressed loner (Luke Wilson) whose life is changed when a warmhearted Latina busybody (Adriana Barraza) discerns a miraculous image of Christ's face on his stucco wall, after which he slowly opens up to her and the other neighbors: an empathetic widow (Radha Mitchell), her sad child (Morgan Lily), a nearsighted grocery clerk (Rachel Seiferth), and the local priest (George Lopez). Despite some formulaic turns and occasional platitudinous dialogue, director Mark Pellington sustains a suspenseful, sometimes poetic, generally unsentimental mood, not without humor, solidly anchored by Wilson whose transformation from spiritual emptiness to redemption is fully believable, with themes of faith and community strong pluses for the Catholic viewer. Two instances of profanity and a few crass words. A-II (PG)

spite some sharp jibes here and there, and a game cast that includes Matthew McConaughey and a wildly out-of-character Tom Cruise, the frenetic satire never quite reconciles its uncertain tone between Hollywood sendup and genuinely brutal adventure. Nonstop rough language and profanity, crass expressions, strong violence and gore, torture, brief irreverence, drug use, scatological humor and frank sexual references. O (R)

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (MGM/Weinstein): Best friends vacationing in Spain — one nonchalantly uninhibited (Scarlett Johansson), the other respectably pragmatic (Rebecca Hall) — accept a charming artist's (Javier Bardem) invitation for a cozy weekend in a

resort town, leading to triangular complications, eventually muddled further by the arrival of the artist's volatile ex-wife (Penelope Cruz), and the formation of a temporary "menage a trois." Though this diverting romantic comedy is almost fablelike in presentation (and therefore not to be taken literally), the cast and locale engaging, overt sexual elements minimal, and the characters' actions not entirely devoid of moral weight, the premise of the film may still prove problematic. An implied sexual threesome, a casual view of nonmarital sex and two brief nongraphic encounters, an implied extramarital dalliance, a nihilistic worldview, a few crude words and profanities, and brief gun violence. L (PG-13)

Ratings

Conference of Catholic Bishops Office for Film & Broadcasting classifications: A-I — general patronage; A-II — adults and adolescents; A-III — adults; L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling; O — morally offensive.

Motion Picture Association of America ratings: G — general audiences, all ages admitted; PG — parental guidance suggested, some material may not be suitable for children; PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13; R — restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian; NC-17 — no one 17 or under admitted.

- Baby Mama O (PG-13)
- Brideshead Revisited A-III (PG-13)
- The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian A-II (PG)
- The Dark Knight A-III (PG-13)
- The Forbidden Kingdom A-III (PG-13)
- The Happening A-III (R)
- Hellboy II: The Golden Army A-III (PG-13)
- Henry Poole Is Here A-II (PG)
- The Incredible Hulk A-III (PG-13)
- Iron Man A-III (PG-13)
- Journey to the Center of the Earth A-I (PG)
- The Love Guru O (PG-13)
- Mamma Mia! L (PG-13)
- Meet Dave A-II (PG)
- Mirrors L (R)
- The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor A-II (PG-13)
- Pineapple Express O (R)
- The Rocker A-III (PG-13)
- Sex and the City O (R)
- The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 A-III (PG-13)
- Space Chimps A-I (G)
- Speed Racer A-II (PG)
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars A-II (PG)
- Step Brothers O (R)
- Swing Vote A-III (PG-13)
- Tropic Thunder O (R)
- WALL-E A-I (G)
- What Happens in Vegas O (PG-13)
- Vicky Cristina Barcelona L (PG-13)
- The X-Files: I Want to Believe A-III (PG-13)
- You Don't Mess With the Zohan O (PG-13)

Bestsellers

For August 2008, based on publisher reports of all orders in Catholic and Christian stores in the U.S. and Canada for titles published by members of the Catholic Book Publishers Association.

Hardcover

1. Catechism of the Catholic Church, Doubleday, Our Sunday Visitor, USCCB Publishing
2. The Gift of Years, Joan Chittister, BlueBridge
3. Rediscovering Catholicism, Matthew Kelly, Beacon Publishing
4. The Dream Manager, Matthew Kelly, Beacon Publishing/Hyperion
5. Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light, Mother Teresa with Brian Kolodiejchuk, Doubleday
6. Celebration of Discipline 25th Anniversary Edition, Richard Foster, HarperOne
7. Disputed Truth, Hans Küng, Continuum
8. Simply Christian, N. T. Wright, HarperOne
9. Ten Prayers God Always Says Yes To, Anthony DeStefano, Doubleday
10. Quest for the Living God, Elizabeth Johnson, Continuum

Paperback

1. Mere Christianity, C. S. Lewis, HarperOne
2. Catechism of the Catholic Church, Doubleday, Our Sunday Visitor, USCCB Publishing
3. The Screwtape Letters, C. S. Lewis, HarperOne
4. Handbook for Today's Catholic, A Redemptorist Pastoral Publication, Liguori Publications
5. The Complete C.S. Lewis Signature Classics, C. S. Lewis, HarperOne
6. St. Paul: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics, Mitch Pacwa, Our Sunday Visitor
7. United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, USCCB Publishing
8. The Great Divorce, C. S. Lewis, HarperOne
9. Confronting Power and Sex in the Catholic Church, Geoffrey Robinson, Liturgical Press
10. RB 1980: The Rule of St. Benedict, Liturgical Press

Our turn



Therese J. Borchard | **Dorothy Day: A role model for young adults**

I've been intrigued by the life of Dorothy Day since college, when I read excerpts of her "The Long Loneliness." Unlike so many Catholic role models, I could relate to her interior struggles and her clumsily evolving spiritual life.

Her devotion was unorthodox in that she had an abortion, bore a child out of wedlock, and she asked more questions of God than she received answers, which I think makes her a intriguing figure for today's young adult.

Robert Ellsberg has just released a compilation of her diaries, "The Duty of Delight: The Diaries of Dorothy Day." In Ellsberg's book we get an even more intimate portrait of the woman who founded the Catholic Worker Movement. Like "The Long Loneliness," this newer collection of writings is full of gems relevant to the lives of young adults today. For example:

"Thinking gloomily of the sins and shortcomings of others, it suddenly came to me to remember my own offenses, just as heinous as those of others. If I concern myself with my own sins and lament them, if I remember my own failures and lapses, I will not be resentful of others. This was most cheering and lifted the load of gloom from my mind. It makes one unhappy to judge people and happy to love them."

Consider this one on anger: "I have a hard enough job to curb the anger in my own heart which I sometimes even wake up with, go to sleep with — a giant to strive with, an ugliness, a sorrow to me — a mighty struggle to love. As long as there is any resentment, bitterness, lack of love in my own heart I am powerless. God must help me."

Day can speak directly to young adults who are indifferent to religion or even opposed because she was too until she found herself with child. Only then did she begin to yearn for the ritual, community and spiritual direction she saw in the Catholic Church.

And when young adults need to

confront romantic relationships and friendships that aren't God-centered, Day can offer wisdom there as well since she had to break off her relationship with her partner, with whom she was very deeply in love, when it was clear that he was opposed to religion and to her decision to baptize their child.

In addition, this modern role model reminds us that we need each other as part of a community, that we lose out if we buy into the individualistic culture of ours that breeds independent people who get the job done faster, easier and more efficiently than having to rely on others.

The Catholic Worker Movement was about the give-and-take that Jesus modeled when breaking bread and sharing wine with the disciples. "Every morning I break my fast with the men in the breadline," Day writes in her diaries. "Some of them speak to me. Many of them do not. But they know me and I know them. And there is a sense of comradeship there. We know each other in the breaking of bread."

Dorothy Day



CNS photo courtesy Marquette University Archives

Words of wisdom

"For me prayer is a surge of the heart, it is a simple look towards Heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."

—St. Therese of Lisieux