

-----  
He Stepped Out.

"I want my son to step out this year."

That ended the interview. The pastor had called to ask the boy's mother why her son was not returning to the Catholic High School. "I don't think we can quite afford it this year," was her reply. The pastor assured her that the tuition charge would be waived in order to keep this 18-year-old boy in a Catholic school. Then she gave the real reason: "I want my son to step out this year."

That was last September. Last week the mother reaped the harvest of her folly. Her son and another boy, with two girls, all pupils in the public high school which she had chosen for its social advantages, rented a room in a disreputable rooming house, preparing to stage a "party". Five minutes after they had entered the room a shot rang out. The girl who was shot died fifteen minutes after reaching the hospital, although she was conscious enough to recognize the priest who took the call.

The grand jury has been asked to handle the case, as the survivors tell conflicting stories. Feeling ran high in the city for a few days, and there were calls for investigation on conditions in the high school. What they need to investigate is the hearts of mothers who want their sons to "step out".

Under the heading, "Goofy Parents", the Bulletin had this to say on May 19, 1926:

"Yes, I understand all that, but my boy is different." When the educator hears these words from the lips of a "goofy" mother, he stops his search for the causes of the son's mental or moral breakdown, whatever the case may be. No one knows better than the experienced educator or the priest that all boys are "different," and no one knows better that fundamentally they are all the same. But when he hears a doting mamma declare that her son's high-strung nature has exempted him from the universal law of obedience, he understands.....

The Fourth Commandment is becoming obsolete because silly parents do not enforce it. When the family rosary was universal in Catholic homes, children knew the duties of obedience, respect, deference to their elders, honor, and decency. With the Americanization of the immigrant, simple faith, our only truly precious heritage from our European ancestors, has been badly strained. American-plan children have a harder time saving their souls than did their hand-me-down grandparents.

The following classes of parents may expect to be disgraced by their children:

1. Those who know more than priest or pope;
2. Those who try to "keep up with the Joneses";
3. Those who lie for their children;
4. Those who can't stop making money long enough to make a home;
5. Those who can't say "No" to their children;
6. Those who refuse to believe that their children are human.

Feast of the Purification Tomorrow.

This feast of the Blessed Virgin (Candlemas Day) recalls the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. The community Mass in the church will be preceded by the blessing of candles. Attend this Mass if you are free from class at 8:15; otherwise go to your hall chapel. But pray tomorrow for the gift of purity.

BLESSING OF THROATS FRIDAY: Basement chapel, 7:30 a.m.; Dillon Hall (for off-campus students), 12:30-1:00 p.m.; Church, after 7:30 p.m. Benediction. The rectors will announce the time of blessings in the hall chapels.