

JENNIFER CONNELLAN : FUTURE FOCUSED

The Magic of First Love

Everyone remembers their first love. There are very few experiences that are as intense and overwhelming.

Most of us probably look back at that experience and smile, remembering how time seemed to stand still and how nothing else in the world mattered. There were hours and hours spent on the phone, and thoughts were completely centered on when we could see our new crush next. It was all so innocent and wonderfully dramatic!

Unfortunately it does not always seem so wonderful when you are watching your own teenagers float off into "first love land." You are happy they are happy, and understand that having a first love is part of growing up, but you worry about lapses in judgment. You are anxious that they will be hurt. You are



concerned that they will be distracted from their academics, or their sports, or their family, or their friends.

So, how do you support them and protect them at the same time?

Last week a parent came into my office who is dealing with this exact situation. She has a 16-year-old daughter named Sara, who fell in love with a boy about a year ago. The mother really likes the boyfriend and has always been supportive of the relationship. Sara is an excellent student and is now in the second semester of her junior year and is starting to plan for college.

However, because her boyfriend is a year younger and will still be in high school when she goes to college, Sara only wants to consider colleges that are very close to home. Her mother feels she

is unnecessarily limiting her options and wants to know how she should approach the situation. How should she ensure that her daughter does not limit her future due to first love?

While respecting the fact that Sara is old enough to begin making her own decisions, this is a situation in which it is logical to require that she at least apply to a few schools that are a little farther away.

First love is irrational and causes thinking patterns that can be quite shortsighted. It would be a good idea to broaden Sara's horizons by taking her on college visits to campuses to schools outside of southern California. Even if she is resistant at first, her mother may find that once she is a bit removed from the intensity of her relationship here, Sara will open her mind to different possibilities.

In encouraging Sara to be open-minded, it is very important to remain sensi-

tive to her feelings. Sara's greatest fear right now is that her relationship will end. Keeping the conversations centered on all the positive aspects of different colleges will be much more effective than conversations warning her about how unlikely it is that her relationship will last. Saying, "I just want you to keep your options open" is much less threatening to her than saying, "He most likely won't even be in your life by the time you go to college."... even if it's true.

FUTURE FOCUSED OFFERS ONGOING LIFE COACHING GROUPS FOR JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THEM AT (949)276-4077 OR EMAIL: JENNIFER@FUTUREFOCUSED.COM

JAN SIEGEL: A MOMENT IN TIME

This is a Big Month for the Mission

February 8, 1987

February 14, 2000

February 20, 2007

February is a particularly special month for the Mission Basilica in San Juan Capistrano. The Mission Church was dedicated by Cardinal Timothy Manning in 1987; and the declaration of



the Church as a Minor Basilica was signed at the Vatican by Cardinal Jorge Medina Estrevez in 2000. It was Pope John Paul II who proclaimed the Church a Basilica in the Jubilee Year of 2000. The title "Basilica" is a title of honor given to Churches that have special religious, historical and cultural significance.

And if everything goes

according to plan, the new Retablo for the Altar should arrive at the end of February, 2007, 20 years after the first dedication of the Mission Church.

The Great Stone Church on the Mission grounds was completed in 1806. In 1812 a huge earthquake destroyed most of the structure. No plans were found for that Church, but when a new Church was to be built 175 years later the Archdiocese wanted to replicate that building. With what was left standing of the Great Stone Church and with research on similar churches in California and Mexico a 20th century version of the Great Stone Church emerged.

The architect, John Bartlett, wanted to maintain the spirit of the original church. By the time the Church was being built, Michael Graves had already built the Library across the street. Michael Graves had captured the Latin culture of our community by concentrating on the architecture of Guatemala to highlight the Mission and California Coastal styles that the City of San Juan Capistrano had decreed should be part of all public buildings. Bartlett was able to create the same feeling for the Church that Michael Graves did for the Library.

Norman Neuerberg, an expert on the Missions of California and an artist, captured the feeling on the walls as well, with motifs that were consistent with the Great Stone Church. Dr. Neuerberg also traveled to Mallorca, Spain, the home of Fr. Junipero Serra, founder of the Mission to see the Church where Fr. Serra grew up before coming to the New World. The

floral pattern is typical of the motif found in the rafters of the Great Stone Church. Even the colors are true to the dyes used in the Great Stone Church. Dr. Neuerberg spent 18 months completing the art on the walls of the Basilica.

The Mission Basilica joins 45 other Minor Basilicas in the United States and five in California. If the Pope ever comes to Orange County, he can say Mass in the Basilica. Basilicas are noted as places of pilgrimage and religious celebrations. The addition of the new Retablo will add to that declaration.

"This will be the first Retablo built for a Church in the United States" announced Mechelle Lawrence, Executive Director of the Historic San Juan Capistrano Mission.

The other Minor Basilicas in California are San Francisco de Asis (Mission Dolores); San Carlos Borromeo (Mission Carmel); St. Joseph Basilica (Alameda); San Diego de Alcala (Mission San Diego); and St. Joseph Cathedral (San Jose).

The Mission Basilica is much more than a place of worship. It is our history, our culture, our Moment in Time.

JAN SIEGEL IS A LONGTIME DOWNTOWN TOUR GUIDE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSIONER.

Don't Let Someone Else Make End-of-Life Decisions For You
You need an Advance Health Care Directive!

- Wills
- Living Trusts
- Advanced Health Care Directives
- Durable Powers of Attorney

Mention this ad for a
25% OFF
Discount on Services



Nora Barson
Attorney At Law
34145 Pacific Coast Hwy. #246
Dana Point, CA 92629
(949) 547-3776
Nbarson@aol.com

FREE Consultations In Your Office or Home