

Seniors and Graduate
Students: Your retreat
begins next Thursday...

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You will be dispensed from
classes on Friday. Make
plans now to attend.

What Are You Reading?

Books are companions, you know, and follow the moral rules laid down for companions. Books are food -- and mental indigestion follows the devouring of unsuitable reading. Books are teachers, good or bad. And since your teachers, your food, and your companions should be chosen with care, you should study the pedigree, the anatomy, and the souls of your books.

A book can influence your life, just as a statesman can, or a war, or a plague. There are many good, wholesome books at your disposal, just as there have always been good books in the world. Today, unfortunately, there is also at your disposal a plethora of undesirable books -- products of a very nasty age. These authors make it more difficult for you to save your soul today. And yet, if you rise above this environment, you become more pleasing to God; and you strengthen your own character.

Just as there are clothing fads, so there are literary fads. And if you have no idea of Christian principles of literary criticism, you'll fall for the fads, and consider yourself up to the minute in the literary world. A man without a classical background, and a sense of Christian decency will, if he is not alert, fall for the current literary fad -- the "open sewer" type -- that screams from the quarter pocket-novel available at all drugstore counters. Here, and in some of our best-sellers, you'll get a full treatment of the various phases of natural and unnatural lust, miscegenation, and homosexuality, even incest. Literary? Don't be a goof. These are the products and the food of spiritual illiterates. The vocabulary is unimpeded and unrestrained. It's nature in the raw, with primitive emotions paraded to an extent that outrivals the animal kingdom. Craftsmanship? It's nothing more than verbal garbage.

Remember: there is no such thing as an un-moral man, an un-moral author, or an un-moral book. Literature reflects life. Religion "dragged in by the heels" is not the criterion. But the assumption of the final end of man -- heaven or hell -- is. Unless man's eternal destiny exists in the mind of the author, and stands out between the lines of his pages, his book is not un-moral. It is immoral. The Word of God takes the matter out of argument -- because He laid down the fundamental principles of literature:

1. "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
2. "He that is not with Me is against Me; He that gathereth not with Me, scattereth."

Occasionally, one of these books finds its way to the campus. Hence this reminder: Whoever recommends such a book, or aids in any way to circulate it, is guilty of the sin of scandal; and such a one also participates in all the sins of bad thought; imagination, desire, word and action that may be committed by those who read the book as a direct or indirect result of such suggestion. Such a book is a "common occasion of sin;" it is sinful even to retain possession of it. The evil that comes from such propaganda can be calculated only by the Recording Angel, and will come to light only at the Last Judgment.

Be kind to your poor soul, and burn such books or magazines if they come near you! And don't be discouraged -- there's much good in the literary world today. We still have saints among us. The Catholic Press will guide you with certainty, and safely.

PRAYERS REQUESTED - Deceased: uncle of Jim Bielefeld of Morrissey; Dr. Allen; friend of Bernie Cooper (O-C); father of John Randall, '49; wife of John E. Cassidy, '17; Gene Toolan, '39; Frank Cahill, '24; Charles de la Vergne, '25; Thomas P. Butler, '07; Ernest LaJoie, '15; wife of Robert Murphy, '04; brother-in-law of Father Menard, CSC; Mother Gannon, RCE; Thomas Walsh, '14; sister of Tom, Pat and Ray Troy.