

(Ill) Brother Justin,
CSC, serious, in
hospital

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 16, 1947

(deceased) aunt of Frank
Forgione (Morr). Two
Special Intentions.

Gossip Town

Have you ever heard of Gossip Town,
On the shore of Falsehood Bay,
Where old Dame Rumor, with rustling gown,
Is going the livelong day?
It isn't far to Gossip Town,
For people who want to go.
The Idleness train will take you down,
In just an hour or so.
The Thoughtless road is a popular route,
And most folks start that way,
But it's steep down grade; if you don't look out,
You'll land in Falsehood Bay.
You glide through the valley of Vicious Folk,
And into the tunnel of Hate,
Then crossing the Add-To bridge, you walk
Right into the city gate.
The principal street is called They-Say,
And I've-Heard is the public well,
And the breezes that blow from Falsehood Bay
Are laden with Don't-You'Tell.
In the midst of the Town is Telltale Park,
You're never quite safe while there,
For its owner is Madam Suspicious Remark,
Who lives on the street Don't Care.
Just back of the park is Slander's Row,
'Twas there Good Name died,
Pierced by a dart from Jealousy's bow,
In the hands of Envious Pride.
From Gossip Town Peace long since fled,
But Trouble, Grief, and Woe,
And sorrow and Care you'll meet instead
If ever you chance to go. (---Anonymous)

All the residents of Gossip Town are by no means old women. And gossip is, by no means, a joke.

When you talk about another person behind his back, so as to injure him unjustly, you commit a sin of detraction. If what you say is true, but unknown to you listeners, you are guilty of what is called, simple detraction. If you lie about another person so as to injure him, you commit the sin of calumny. Detraction and calumny are grievous sins if the injury is grievous, and you are bound, under pain of mortal sin, to repair the injury done as far as you are able. If the injury is light, you are guilty of a venial sin, and you are bound under pain of venial sin to make restitution.

The spirit of criticism usually begets sins of calumny and detraction. Psychologists say that a man usually criticizes because he is too proud to have himself accepted as he is. Through criticism he attempts slyly to tear down reputations and make them less impressive than his own. The critic is most inclined to talk against those who are, or who he fancies to be, in competition with him.

Here are three tests to lay upon criticism: Is it founded upon incontrovertible fact? Is it to serve a good and unselfish purpose? Have I the duty, or at least the right to make it? Will I make it in the right spirit to the right person? If you cannot answer "yes" to these questions, swallow your criticism and save yourself from sin.