

Good Christians?

Do you remember the **Questionnaire on Values and Practices** put out by the Committee on Christian Living. The results are now calculated—and they are uniquely interesting. Note: 366 students answered.

For instance, on the division dealing with reading of magazines and periodicals, the survey showed that students read very little in the way of current Theological articles. Moreover, 69% of the students never read scholarly journals of any kind. Does this indicate an interest in academic study, in theological understanding? Is this the reason why many students find Theology classes boring? That is, have they never read enough Theology to match ideas in class? Could this lack of reading also reflect very little encouragement on the part of professors in the reading of radical theological articles.

It is also evident that most students felt a sense of injustice—racial, economic, social, etc., but very little has been done about it. Could this reflect a lack of accessible information, plus a lack of leadership from those who are in a position to lead. Or, is this evidence of the gap between those who feel concerned and those who wish to work to change the situation. Let us hope that this new spirit of St. Dunstan's corrects the old 'spirit' of apathy.

An interesting observation revealed that 57% of the students feel that weekly worship is a necessity. Yet, the results also show that 77.3% attend church regularly. A reasonable conclusion is that 20% of these regular worshippers go against their conviction. What is this indication of?

In the moral question: 37.7% feel pre-marital sex is always a serious fault. 38.7% feel masturbation is always a serious fault. From a point of view of social harm, psychological harm, personal harm, is masturbation more harmful than pre-marital sex?

The survey also revealed that 62% felt cheating in an exam was always a serious fault. Does this not reflect a distortion of values, caused by the great stress given to exams in our educational system. Cheating in exams was judged to be almost twice as bad as drunkenness, pre-marital sex, masturbation and neglect of debts. And did you know that some did not know the meaning of masturbation? Does this indicate a healthy knowledge of sex?

In the question of pre-marital sex, 78% felt that to consider it a serious fault would depend on the circumstances. It would be interesting to know what those people judged the circumstances to be. Were they considering the anguish of decision in the social circumstances, or the anguish of passion? How many were considering the nature of true love, the exploitation of another, the psychological harm to the other, when they answered this question?

We feel that the moral division of this questionnaire deserves and has many interpretations. The results for both Catholics and non-Catholics on it are as follows.

Morals Non-Catholics

Check off your estimation of the moral quality of:

Topics	Number answered	as a serious fault				Depends on Circum.	Never
		Always %	Partly %				
Pre-Marital sex	53	20.8	3.8	58.5			17.0
Drunkenness	54	35.2	18.5	33.3			13.0
Social Drinking	51	13.7	31.4	27.5			27.5
Masturbation	56	32.2	21.4	30.4			16.0
Cheating on exams	56	44.8	13.7	17.2			24.3
Use of drugs	54	40.7	11.1	31.7			16.8
Homosexual behaviour for either sex	54	29.6	3.7	40.7			26.0
Neglect of debts	55	40.0	14.5	21.8			23.7

Catholic

Topics	Number answered	as a serious fault				Depends on Circum.	Never
		Always %	Partly %				
Pre-marital sex	297	36.9	4.7	46.9			11.5
Drunkenness	302	36.0	15.2	36.9			11.9
Social drinking	293	11.3	26.9	26.2			35.6
Masturbation	285	40.0	14.4	27.8			17.8
Cheating on exams	301	65.5	6.0	11.5			17.0
Use of drugs	297	46.5	7.0	32.0			14.5
Homosexual behaviour	302	49.0	5.6	27.1			18.3
Neglect of debts	293	38.0	11.9	39.2			10.9

A brief look at the subdivision - premarital sex indicates that the same number of Catholics and non-Catholics regard pre-marital sex always as a serious fault (approx. 36%) This would tend to illustrate that both Catholic and non-Catholics have similar moral norms. And of course, 64% qualified their estimation of it as a moral quality. How is this indicative of Catholic moral teaching on pre-marital sex. St. Thomas Aquinas, regarded by the Catholic Church as an angelic doctore and patron of Catholic schools, explains in his article "A Moral Consideration on Fornication"

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LETTERS

3. French — this is the best course yet. I call this the student special. It is a French history course, a French literature course, and listed as a supposed French course. I'm learning a lot about their history and literature but I'm not learning how to speak French. Funny thing is, I thought the course was designed to teach French.

4. Chemistry — well what can I say about Chemistry except that I took the same course for two years in high school. Yet, here I am paying \$80 dollars for this course and getting educated.

5. English — Oh beautiful English. I just love it! I've taken "Canterbury Tales" for the last three years, "Hamlet" for the last four years, "Henry IV" part one for two years, the "Tempest" for two years. This is what I call "furthering my education." By the time I get out of here I should be able to major in "recitation of Shakespearean plays." A small incident happened in this course that should indicate exactly what I am going through. We were scheduled to write a term paper in a certain book and our "prof" wanted us to give a brief summary of our topic. I picked a topic and wrote my summary and handed it into him. He gave it back and said, "Sorry, it's too general." I took this with stride and cut the topic in two. Again I got a, "Sorry, it's too general." Well, I was really perturbed then so I decided to try a different topic altogether. Well again he says "Sorry, too general," so I say sorry won't do. I mean who needs thirty marks anyway. Well here's the punch line. My best friend, John, writes a summary of his topic and gets a "That's very good, go right ahead and do it." Three

that "the inordinate emission of the semen is repugnant to the good of nature, which is the conservation of the species. Hence, after the sin of murder, where by a human nature already in existence is destroyed, this sort of sin seems to hold second place, whereby the generation of human nature is precluded." If this is somewhat indicative of the Catholic Church's teaching on this matter, then, there seems to be a discrepancy between the suggested moral values and their practical considerations.

What overall view may one conclude? All is not well on the campus of St. Dunstan's.

weeks later John gets his paper back with an "F" and a small note saying "Subject was too particular. You should have been more general." Well, there it is. B.D. says, "Can this really be the end, Mama."

I ran across a quotation by Henry Adams which seems to sum up this educational system to a tee.

"Nothing in education is so astounding as the amount of ignorance it accumulates in the form of inert facts."

I'll see you at home, Eastertime, "Beep"

P.S. Please write soon and tell me how things are, there.

So, I just changed the names in his letter and sent it back to him.

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T W A L S E B L

Within this given space I am supposed to produce something humorous. But, I ask you, with such odds stacked against me, how can I be humorous?

How can you be humorous

—when you are so basically shy and inhibited?

—when your vocational guidance test indicates you should be a RABBI (especially when you're of Arab origin and a female.)

—when your own father gave up those beautiful grape vines (potential wine!) in Lebanon to come to P.E.I.?

—when you realize that it actually took you four years to pass Grade 12 Geometry?

—when you show people your Grade 5 class picture and they think you're the teacher?

—when you remember the good old days when you were 12 years old and wore CHUBBIE sizes?

—when you recall recent days when you were 20 years old and wore extra, extra CHUBBIE sizes?

—when you know that for most of your years you were as wide as you were tall?

—when you are a faithful Anglican, yet are denied that "second" sip of wine at Holy Communion?

—when Father...explains to you that even for Anglicans the container of water at the rear of the Chapel is "not" a finger bowl, but Holy Water?

—And finally

—when I realize that the odds against me are infinite — I ask, how can I be humorous?

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