

## My Husband Spends All His Free Time Reading Westerns And Sports

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How can I change my husband's habits? Outside the sports page, he reads mostly pocket-size westerns and mysteries. Lately, our two boys still in grade school are trying to imitate him, though I don't think they get much out of the stories. It would be too bad if they formed the habit, but I'm afraid they will if he continues. How can I get him to read some good Catholic literature?

I think it was Bacon who said, "Reading maketh a full man." Your question, Laura, is full of — what?

If one reads trash, that's what one will carry in his mind. Not that all westerns and mysteries are trash, but a solid diet of them is rather cheap intellectual pabulum.

Judging from their covers, the majority appear to be little more than thinly disguised means for discussing sex and brutality.

Of course, you have some grounds for rejoicing, your husband has apparently graduated from the large class of adult comic book readers!

In all seriousness, Laura, you do face a real problem.

ADULTS WHO subsist on such literary fare are either escapists — they want to avoid the effort of thinking, or morose — they are incapable of much thinking.

I rather think the majority are escapists. They avoid reading anything solid or spiritual because this would disturb the even tempo of their more or less biological existence. They live in a small, habit-controlled world in which their interests seldom extend beyond their job, food, sex, sports, and recreation.

When all goes well, one day in their lives is pretty much like the last, while the sports page furnishes them with an inexhaustible subject of conversation, and their reading of paperbacks, a little safe, vicarious experience in the crudely fascinating world of brutality, sex and murder.

HAVE I painted an exaggerated picture? Watch their actions, listen to the habitual run of their conversation, ask their opinion on any subject outside their narrow world of interests. Even with increased leisure, we find no widening of mental horizons, only more of the same.

How can you effect change? Well, Laura, I think you have to approach the task indirectly. Attempts at direct persuasion won't get you very far, but there are other ways available.

SEE TO IT that there is good literature around the home. This should include some well selected periodicals and books, both Catholic and secular. It is amazing how empty many homes are of such literature.

People who do not hesitate to spend freely on entertainment or travel often display a strange reluctance to buy a book or purchase a subscription to a good magazine.



How many Americans have ever ventured inside a bookstore? How many ever enter a library after they leave school?

Plan your attack on your husband's reading habits. Ask him to read an article or a paragraph you feel is particularly interesting. Get his opinion on it, discuss it with him — he may rise to the occasion once his masculine pride is aroused. This is more than mutual education. It is an enduring bond of unity.

Provide appropriate reading material for your children. Pick out passages you feel they will like and have them read these to you or vice versa. Take them to the appropriate departments in the library and let them select their own books.

When they are older, you can frequently get them to read an article or even a book.

If you and your husband discuss parts of it when they're around. Young people like to be in on the conversation, even at the cost of having to read something.

What about your husband? He's not immune to example, and if good reading material is available, his curiosity may eventually get the best for him. Remember, Laura, there's some hope for him — he's not reading comic books.

### Daily Mass Calendar

Sunday, April 6—Resurrection of our Lord (white), Gloria, Sequence, Creed, Easter Preface and Canon prayers.

Monday, April 7, through Saturday, April 12—Mass each day as in missal.

## C-J Tops 56,000

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erage plan helping to boost the Courier Journal's subscription record to an all time high. Father George Kalb, Holy Trinity pastor, reported 224 western letters were received the diocesan paper each week, a gain of 183 for that parish.

Highest number reported from any one parish is the 1,293 total from Sacred Heart Cathedral, where Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey is rector.

Two parishes topped the twelve hundred mark: St. John the Evangelist, Auburn, 1,203; St. Alphonsus, Auburn, 1,203.

Five other parishes reported over 1,000 subscribers. They are: Holy Rosary, Rochester, 1,037; Blessed Sacrament, Rochester, 1,022; St. Patrick, Lumbria, 1,041; St. Charles Borromeo, Greece, 1,003; and Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, 1,006.

"The management of the Courier-Journal wants to thank the clergy and laity of the Diocese for their constant support," Mr. Crapensteter, circulation manager, stated.

"We also want to pay tribute to the generous cooperation we enjoy from the postal employees throughout the 12 counties of the Rochester Diocese. Their efficient handling of the Courier-Journal assures our subscribers of receiving their copies promptly each week," he said.



## Heads Navy

New Chief of Navy Chaplains is Rear Admiral George A. Rosso of New York. He succeeds Rear Admiral Edward B. Harp, Jr. After serving in chaplain corps since 1937 in various assignments, Chaplain Rosso was named in November 1954, to duty with the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department, and in the following year, was designated Assistant Director, Chaplains Division, (NCG Photos)

Nun Appointed Philadelphia — (NC) — Sister Helen de Sales of Chestnut Hill College here, has been named a member of the Philadelphia Child Welfare Board by Mayor Richardson Dilworth.

## Italian Pastor Sued For Defamation

Grosseto, Italy — (NC) — Twelve people from the small village of Roccastrada, near here, have filed suit against the village pastor, Father Biagio Ballo, on a charge of "defamation through the press."

While considerable interest has been stirred up by the case, which follows closely the conviction of Bishop Pietro Fiordelli of Prato on a similar charge, there is serious doubt that sufficient grounds exist for a lawsuit.

THE CASE HAS not yet been accepted by the magistrature here. If it is, it will almost certainly be tried in the court here in Grosseto, the administrative center of the province in which Roccastrada is located.

The case began when Father Ballo posted instructions on his church door on March 20 concerning the forthcoming Easter blessing of houses.

THE NOTICE STATED: "The priest should be received at the door of the house. During the blessing all household work should cease while the faithful devoutly assist the priest and respond to the prayers. Please do not ask the priest to return at another time on the excuse that no one is at home because of urgent business."

"Excluded from the blessing of the houses are all concubines, that is all who have not been united with the religious bonds of the Sacrament of Matrimony. These in fact are considered pub-

lic sinners and they live in scandalous concubinage."

THE NOTICE was published nowhere except on the church door and the priest took it down the following day.

That same morning, however, 20 heads of families came to Grosseto to ask two prominent lawyers here for legal advice. Out of their meeting came the filing of the suit for defamation, which listed five married couples and two women not joined by their husbands as plaintiffs.

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