

## Thoughts For Our Time

By His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan

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### SPIRITUAL NEEDS IGNORED

Modern psychology has brought to the fore a realization, possessed at least in an implicit manner by the ancients, that the formation of personality is not dependent entirely upon conscious response to environmental factors such as symmetry, order, grace, harmony of sound and color.

The conscious and deliberate practical application of this theoretical truth could go a long way toward formation of more truly human persons who would be in a better way of recognizing their need of God, the necessity of faith in revealed truth, the obligation of rendering due worship, and the true basis of good morality.

It has long been realized, and here the theoretical truth has been consciously and deliberately applied in practice, that plants and animals grow better, mature earlier, and produce more in favorable environmental conditions. Every possible safeguard and remedy is employed to ensure maximum growth, maturity and productivity. Plant and animal husbandry is, in short, a highly developed art. The word art is used rather than science, because the environment is not capable of being completely controlled.

If we are so concerned to ensure maximum natural growth, maturity and productivity in plants and animals, by how much the more should we be concerned to achieve the maximum personally development of our people? Our concern is directed principally, of course, to youth.

It cannot be denied that we are at great pains to provide for their material needs or food, clothing and shelter are in some ways merely animals, the situation would not be so bad, with the exception, perhaps, that we encourage moderate excesses in food and drink, and that their clothing and shelter, if our youth instances not designed to serve their prime purpose, but rather some secondary one.

Where the real difficulty arises is that youth has spiritual needs as well as material ones. It is here that malnutrition and near starvation exist for many of our youth. The existence of these spiritual needs throws an entirely new light even on the provision of food, clothing and shelter. That however, is not our present concern.

Auditory and visual media are the main sources of the food for the spirit, which is here under consideration. What our youth hear and what they see should, as far as possible, be consciously and deliberately slanted toward their spiritual growth, maturity and productivity.

Auditory and visual presentations should not be exhibited without discrimination to youth and to the mature. Auditory and visual presentations that are permissible and even necessary for the adult, may do untold harm to youth. It is extremely unrealistic to expect a formed and mature response from unformed and immature personalities.

**Intellectual Harm**

Great care must be exercised that the intellectual and moral harm may not come to youth by the reading of books, by the attendance at plays and moving pictures that are exciting and

stimulating in the extreme to personalities which, without them, are with difficulty controlling the new forces arising within them.

The root of most trouble in this direction lies in this, that much of what our youth hears and sees is produced commercially with a view to cash returns, and with no intelligent concern for the welfare of its auditors or viewers. Thus the producers tend to escape the censure of good morals and of good art. Apart from the question of whether this is good economics, it is certainly a great social disservice.

Much of the music so enthusiastically received by our youth is lacking in harmony, proportion, and sense. It is for the most part devoid of any artistic merit. It is overloaded with emotional content; and with stupefying repetition, it idealizes romantic and sensual love. It is lacking in any food for the mind.

When men act in a specifically human fashion their minds always come into play. Music which has nothing for the mind is not good music. Bad art does not promote good minds nor good morals. To defend such music on the grounds that youth likes it is to say that the wisdom that men have accumulated over the ages is secondary to the whims of youth which has not as yet come into vital and effective contact with our cultural heritage. The mature and developed adult should be a better judge of what is good for youth than it is in its own case.

**Lack Decency**

The general run of moving pictures are totally lacking in artistic value. They evidence the lack of a sense of decency, modesty, and refinement in dress and manners. The theatre pages of our newspapers and the marquee of our theatres manifest a lack of good taste and of moral and artistic refinement. The covers on the flood of paperback books are offensive to the natural sense of modesty. The lurid and the sensational is exploited as copy by many newspapers because it helps to sell copies.

It is time that some thought be taken as to the long-run effect of such artistic, cheap, and vulgar sights upon youth. Insensibly they are being robbed of artistic sensitivity, their high sense of values is being lessened, and their personalities are being coarsened. The culturally inadequate auditory and visual presentations to which our youth are subjected are like erosion, which gradually but nonetheless effectively lowers the cultural level of our whole society.

**Plato's Plea**

So many years ago Plato said: "Let our artists rather be those who are gifted to discern the true nature of the beautiful and the graceful; then will our youth dwell in a land of health, amid fair sights and sounds, and receive the good in everything; and beauty, the effluence of good works, shall flow into the eye and ear, like a health-giving breeze from a purer region, and insensibly draw the soul from earliest years into likeness and sympathy with reason."

The more intellectually and culturally developed our society is, and the more it is turned from culturally inadequate to culturally adequate expressions and responses, the more capable will it be of responding to the appeal which must constantly be made for a return of the individual and of society as a whole to God.

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BYRON J. GRANT, Optometrist will be absent from his office Oct. 4th to 9th inclusive.

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**LEAVE FOR TORONTO.** — Mr. and Mrs. Murray Creed and two children, Kirk and Keltie, left by plane Wednesday for Toronto, where they will reside. Mrs. Creed and children have been spending the past six weeks with Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Creed, Highfield, while Mr. Creed has been in Toronto taking over his new position as Production Supervisor of Farm and Fisheries TV Programs for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

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**MISCELLANEOUS SHOWER.** — Prior to her marriage Mrs. Fred N. Norton (nee Lois MacLean), was honored at a miscellaneous shower by Long Creek and vicinity. To the bridal march, played by Miss Shirley MacDonald, the bride-to-be was escorted to the beautifully decorated chair by Miss Meredith MacLean. Misses Wilma MacPhail and Jean Stretch opened the gifts and Mrs. Reginald MacFadyen read the verses

while Miss Meredith MacLean arranged the gifts. In a few well chosen words the guest of honor expressed her thanks. Following this a dainty lunch was served and the remainder of the evening was spent in dancing.

**PRE-NUPTIAL FUNCTION.** — The congregation of New Dominion United Church met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur MacDonaid, New Dominion to honour Mrs. Fred N. Norton, (nee Lois MacLean), prior to her marriage. Chairman for the evening was Mr. Hector Q. Currie, who called on Mr. W. R. Shaw to read the address. A beautiful mantle mirror was then presented by Miss Shirley MacDonald and Mr. Walter MacEwen. The guest of honor then expressed her thanks. Rev. A. S. Weir D.D., spoke briefly as did Mrs. A. E. MacMillan. Gaelic solo by Mr. Shaw was then rendered. A social evening was enjoyed. Lunch was served.

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**VISITS RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.** — Mr. Randolph Murray formerly of P. E. I. and of the teaching faculty, Edmonton University, arrived by plane, September 3rd on a short visit to P. E. Island. He was accompanied by his wife, Norene, whose home town is in Windsor, Ont. Randolph is a son of the late H. J. Murray, formerly of Clyde River. His mother, the former Bertha Beer of DeSable, now lives in Three Hills, Alta. Among the relatives and friends visited were his aunt, Mrs. Chester Shaw, DeSable, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Murray, Clyde River; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ince, Charlottetown; Mr. and Mrs. Stewart MacFarlane, Winsloe, and Mr. and Mrs. Victor Shaw, Belvedere. Mr. and Mrs. Murray while on the Island were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Ince, DeSable.

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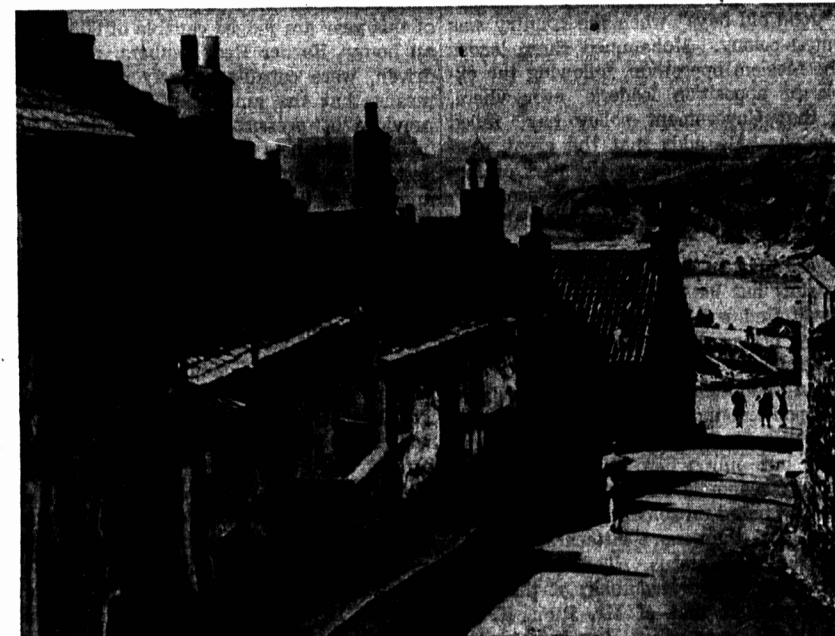
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