

Content Guide

The Siege of Reginald Hill

By Corinna Turner

Themes: Forgiveness of enemies, redemption, salvation of souls, redemptive power of suffering, conversion, faith, martyrdom, priesthood, pro-life and the dangers of eugenics (the culture of death), forced organ donation, population control, Christian Persecution.

Educational Value: Appropriate for students studying Ethics/Morality, Religious Persecution, Medical Ethics, Government/Civics, Vocation/Priesthood.

Positive Messages: Offering all for the salvation of even your worst enemy and staying true to God even in the worst circumstances.

Spiritual Messages: God desires the salvation of all and we should seek the good even of those who harm us and try to lead them to salvation, whatever the cost to us. Eternal life with him is worth any suffering we endure in this life.

Positive Role Models: Kyle/Fr. Kyle Verrall is a positive role model because he works hard and cares about his parishioners. He also tries to prioritize his spiritual life over free time (or even sleep!), no matter how busy he is. He is able to love the man who is torturing him and willingly offer up all his pain for the man's salvation. Even when all seems hopeless he never stops trying to save the man's soul.

Margo is a positive role model because she tries to do the right thing and forgive her enemy for what he has done to her brother.

Violence/Gore: Considerable, but mostly conveyed or implied through the character's thoughts and reactions rather than through graphic descriptions.

The main character is tortured for some time and loses his fingers, thumbs, and one toe.

Sexuality: A female character briefly assaults the main character. Mostly implied, no graphic descriptions.

Language: Words like heck and darn are used.

Drinking, Drugs & Smoking: None.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

This book is a powerful exploration of the true meaning of forgiving our enemies and sacrificing to save souls. Readers have said that they reflected on this novel while on retreat. The themes are mature and the novel is emotionally intense, containing torture scenes, making it more suitable for older teens, though some of the most mature younger readers will benefit from it.

Rating Scale: ADVANCED

Light- For all readers.

Moderate - Story includes subject matter for teens 13 plus

Advanced - Although not graphic in description, the subject matter is recommended for teens older than 15.