

Parental Guide: A Saint in the Family

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: No one is beyond God's mercy or incapable of repentance.

Spiritual Messages: God desires the salvation of all and we should seek the good even of those who have harmed us. Loving our enemy may be the very thing that shows them God's love.

Positive Role Models: Kyle/Fr. Kyle Verrall is a positive role model because he is very holy, loves God very much and works hard as a priest. He is able to love the man who crippled 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 fights tirelessly for truth and democracy. She cares for her worst enemy even after she has killed someone she loves.

Violence/Gore: Minor gore, some violence.

A main character is known to have lost her jaw to a bullet but there are no detailed descriptions.

In an intense scene, another character chokes to death on his own blood.

A main character dies from multiple stab wounds, there is some description of blood and how he looks afterwards.

A character has bandaged hands after losing his thumbs and forefingers.

Another character is dying and suffering fear and confusion. We learn that he had his mother killed.

Sexuality: None.

Language: None (words like heck and darn are used.)

Drinking, Drugs & Smoking: None.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

This book is a collection of short stories and novellas meaning it has a variety of themes, but the main theme throughout the book is Fr. Kyle Verrall's journey from sixteen-year-old boy to saintly priest. It is also a powerful exploration of the true meaning of forgiving our enemies. The themes are mature and the novel is emotionally intense, containing death scenes, making it more suitable for older teens, though some of the most mature younger readers will benefit from it.

Rating Scale: Advanced

Scale:

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.