

PART ONE

Students and Student-Teacher Relations

Young People Without Integrity (*continued*)

By what characteristics, then, will you recognize these young truants, and by what means will you be able to keep them apart, foil their tricks, or, if possible, work to remedy the situation? At first you

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will be aware of them from a certain desire they have to be together, to be a separate group, with an air of defiance and a certain separation from their teachers or prefects. You will also know them by their gestures and their attitude, by a type of isolation and staying apart, by an air too calm and quiet to be ordinarily associated with healthy young people of their age.

Undoubtedly that will not be enough to let you make a sure judgement or allow your suspicions to become evident facts, but it will be enough to awaken your attention and further open your eyes.

Even if you have suspicion, do not give in to spying. That is tantamount to remedying one evil with another. By acting in that way you would spread among them seeds of defiance, disunion, and hypocrisy. But try to see and hear everything yourself; try to surprisr them at times when they see themselves not in view of a teacher and are not keeping up any sort of guard. Times of recreation, extracurricular events, field trips—those are the times that you must especially exercise vigilance. If you are vigilant, you will succeed in clarifying your suspicions and reaching a good judgement or a reasonable opinion about the condition of these young people.

If their inclinations are well enough known to you, you should at once bring it to the attention of the school administration. Administrators then will need to work with the father and mother of the student, in order to help them improve their son's or daughter's state by purifying the heart and enlightening the intelligence. For that, there will be a need for continued surveillance. To give this heart the goodness it has lost and to inspire in it hatred of whatever eats at the goodness, you must have recourse to all means of prudence, to all the resources of charity, and, above all, to the efficacy of prayer. If, in spite of all that, the student is unable to correct his or her condition or if you are seriously concerned that the student will have a bad effect upon the other students, it will be necessary for the student to be dismissed from the school.

