

Movie makers warned by Bishops' committee

NEW YORK—The Catholic Bishops' committee for motion pictures warned here that if the film industry does not show it can self-regulate its product the public may demand mandatory classification of movies.

A lengthy statement stressing the need for stricter regulation of films was issued through the National League of Decency here by the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Motion Pictures, Radio and Television.

The statement was signed by the retiring chairman of the committee, Bishop James A. McNulty of Paterson, N.J., and four other prelates.

Key points in the statement, entitled "Films—Freedom and Responsibility," were these:

- Film industry leadership has expressed unalterable opposition to voluntary classification of movies.
- The "Catholic preference is for self-regulation on the part of the motion picture industry with minimal legal controls."

- "There has been no decrease noted in the number of objectionable domestic films."

- Foreign films . . . have intensified the public impression that today's motion pictures are for the most part reprehensible."
- There has been an abuse of statistics issued by the National League of Decency.

- The public resents the "venal practices" of the film industry's advertising departments in promoting movies.

- There should be "reasonable provision" for safeguarding young people from viewing so-called adult films.

- The Bishops asserted in their statement that "the freedom of the screen is in greater jeopardy today than perhaps at any other address on December 1.

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- "The threat of censorship hangs over motion pictures," they stated, "not because of any antiquated prudery on the part of the public but because of reasonable public dissatisfaction with current film product, practices and exploitation."

- THE BISHOPS revealed that in his opening statement, they said, the Cardinal, who for 25 years served as Apostolic Delegate to the United States.
- Cardinal Cioffanti then set forth the purposes of the CCD congress.

- "The congress is intended to bring home to all—to priests, nuns and women religious, to the laity and especially to those who belong to the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine—the grave and stark reality, namely, that the people to be saved, the children and youth to be instructed, the non-Catholics in need of assistance, are a multitude, while the pastors, the catechists, the apostles are but few; and furthermore, the difficulties encountered in the practice of a Christian life are much greater nowadays and the dangers to the Faith much more grave."

- "From these realistic and startling statements of a fact . . ."

- "In commenting upon the legation report for 1961, the Bishops' statement continued, "the Motion Picture Association of America saw fit to boast that three out of four Hollywood films were found acceptable by the legion for some class of audience."

- "At best this use of statistics was a pathetic effort to convince the public that all is completely well. . . . In the spirit of promoting the cause of a free and responsible screen we hope that . . ."

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Blessing is set for new novitiate

AUBURN, Ind.—Bishop Leo A. Pursley of Fort Wayne-South Bend will bless the chapel of the newly-erected St. Anthony Novitiate near here Friday, December 8, at 4 p.m. The novitiate will serve the Conventual Franciscan Sisters' Province of Our Lady of Consolation.

Very Rev. Albert M. Leis, O.F.M. Conv., minister provincial, will be celebrant of a Solemn Mass following the blessing ceremony. Bishop Pursley will preach the sermon.

In the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the Franciscan Conventuals have a minor seminary at Mt. St. Francis, two parishes in Terre Haute and one in Clarksville.



AT CCD CONGRESS

Catechist mission cited by Cardinal Cioffanti

DALLAS—"The catechist is Christ's helper in the work of redemption."

In this simple declaration Cardinal Cioffanti, Papal Secretary of State, underlined the high mission of the catechist for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

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They stated that this ruling "may eventually do more to advance the cause of genuine freedom of the screen than at first seems possible."

Turning to Legion of Decency statistics in regard to movies, the Bishops noted that "there has been no decrease during 1961 in the number of objectionable domestic films," with the legion report showing that "such films constitute 26.10 per cent of this year's domestic product."

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there arises the logical and unavoidable conclusion, namely: we must increase the number of our catechists, we must prepare them better, we must give more impetus to the initiatives and organizations dedicated to Christian training."

Cardinal Cioffanti in Spanish and French saluted the ecclesiastical and lay delegates to the congress from non-English speaking nations of the Americas.

IN HIS CLOSING address the Cardinal responded to two questions—"Am I called to do something for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine?" and "What can I do?"

"Though we have the comforting assurances of Christ of an eventual triumph," he said, "and have also the 'serene and spr-

itual" example of Pope John XXIII, it must be realized that "mere human means are not enough: we need the divine."

The divine means are indicated, he continued, in the teachings of Christ, the writings of the Apostles, the directives of the popes; that is, that every baptized person is bound to spread the kingdom of God on earth.

"The importance and the reason for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine is the parish. . . . In reality we belong to one particular parish, and our duties and rights as Christians are fulfilled and exercised within that parish," the Cardinal said.

"Now it should be the foremost and common obligation of all to insure that God is known, loved and served by all Christians."

"THE ARCHDIOCESAN Society for Priestly Vocations will be affiliated with the Pontifical Society for Priestly Vocations, established by the Sacred Congregation of Seminaries."

Archbishop Schulte indicated that the new organization will not impede the efforts of other organizations, notably the Serra Club and the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, which have well-developed programs to stimulate religious vocations.

"WE WOULD WISH to see established in every parish, in every parish organization, and in every Catholic society of the Archdiocese an active and continued effort to promote religious vocations," the Archbishop stated.

He added: "If each parish and Catholic organization will have one person, whose particular duty is to stress the dignity of religious life, we feel that our good people will follow the lead in this very important work."



THE LAST SUPPER IN STONE—Above is a detail of the dramatic sculpture of the Last Supper by Dom Hubert van Zeller, O.S.B., of Downside Abbey, England. For the complete story and other examples of Father Hubert's work, please turn to Page Two.

CARDINAL TO PROTESTANTS: Council should aid unity efforts

ZURICH, Switzerland—The coming ecumenical council will make no concessions of dogma for the sake of Christian unity, but its pronouncements should make efforts toward unity easier.

This was the core of an address by Cardinal Augustin Bea, S.J., president of the preparatory Secretariat for Christian Unity for the council. It was made to a standing-room-only audience here.

Almost the entire Protestant theological faculty of Zurich University was present.

While telling his audience that dogma concessions should not be

expected, Cardinal Bea said that he was convinced that the council would "throw light on the elements of the treasury of revealed truths which are of primary importance for our separated brothers."

ONE of the most important of these doctrines which interest non-Catholics, the Cardinal said, is that which concerns the nature of the Church. He said:

"The doctrine that proposes that the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ engenders a series of questions, and it is in these questions that many of the serious difficulties of non-Catholics are found. It will be a matter then of presenting these truths in a proper light, capable of dispelling objec-

tions and the bases on which these objections are founded."

"There are many other areas," continued Cardinal Bea, "in which the ecumenical council might be expected to take into consideration some of the hopes of our separated brothers. These concern mainly the questions of ecclesiastical rights, of worship and of piety."

The Cardinal then quoted a statement made earlier by Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani, Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office, who said: "Once the truth is recognized that the Church cannot accept any compromise, those sons who may return to her will find a mother ready to perform all the generous tasks that are in her power in the areas of liturgy, tradition and discipline."

REFERRING to efforts toward Christian unity within the Catholic Church itself, Cardinal Bea noted that the first task is "to make all baptized people know that they have a serious duty as Christians to devote themselves to the cause of unity."

When Church authorities insist on controlling efforts for Christian unity, he added, "it is not so much a matter of abusive centralization of the various undertakings in different parts of the Church but of coordinating them cautiously."

IT WOULD BE wrong to underestimate the difficulties that stand in the way of unity, declared the Cardinal, but it would be just as wrong to be frightened into inactivity because of these obstacles.

He said: "Let us with confidence and courage, with love

and prayer, with work and penance, follow the road that leads to the union of all who are baptized in Christ."

The professors of the Protestant theology faculty were presented to the Cardinal by the rector, Pastor Voegeli, at a reception after the lecture.

In an interview with Swiss newsmen, the Cardinal outlined the principal difficulties that the Unity cause encounters with Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants.

AS TO THE Orthodox, Cardinal Bea said that "apart from historical misunderstandings and resentments, the main difficulty lies in the primacy of the Pope and more particularly in the infallibility of the Pope."

For the Anglicans and the Protestants, he continued, "One could say that the real difficulty revolves about the points of doctrine regarding justification, the sacraments and devotion to Mary. But the greatest difficulty" at which everything ultimately hinges is the question of the concept of the Church, of its power and of its teaching authority."

"Among the Lutherans and the followers of the Reformation there is also the difficulty created by the absence of a hierarchy which was refused on principle. That authority, which can define the duties of conscience for believers, constitutes also one of the more serious difficulties in the practical matter of meetings and exchanges of views. One always wonders with whom one should deal and who has the authority to put into practice the possible results of these meetings."

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Indulgences given to all who offer work to God

VATICAN CITY—His Holiness Pope John XXIII has granted indulgences to everyone who offers his daily work to God.

A decree issued by the Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary, a high Church court that deals with indulgences, states that a plenary indulgence may be gained once a day under the usual conditions by Catholics who offer their work at hand, whether manual or intellectual—to God in the morning.

The "usual conditions" according to canon law, are confession and Communion within eight days, prayer for the intentions of the Pope, and a visit to a church or chapel if it is conveniently possible.

THE DECREE also grants a partial indulgence of 500 days as well as a "contrite heart" as a condition for the granting of the indulgence.

An indulgence is the remission of the temporal punishment due to those sins whose guilt has been forgiven either by the Sacrament of Penance or a period Act of Contrition. They are plenary—remitting the whole of the temporal punishment incurred by a sinner—or partial, remitting part of the punishment.

THE TEXT of the new Vatican decree is the following: "His Holiness John XXIII, Pope by Divine Providence, desiring that human labor may be more greatly stimulated and elevated by means of being offered to God, in the course of an audience granted on October 7 of this year to the undersigned cardinal, Grand Penitentiary, has decreed to grant the following indulgences:

"(1) Plenary, under the usual conditions, to be gained by the faithful who in the morning offer to God their labor of the whole day, whether manual or intellectual, using any formula of prayer.

"(2) Partial indulgence of 500 days, to be gained by faithful with at least a contrite heart as often as they devoutly offer the work at hand, using any formula of prayer.

"The present decree is to be of perpetual validity, all to the contrary notwithstanding."

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THE DECREE was signed by Cardinal Arcadio Larraza, C.M.F., Grand Penitentiary, who presides over the Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary.

VISIT NEGRO HOMES

WARREN, Ohio—A dozen Catholics have begun a series of visits to Negro homes here in an effort to scale the invisible wall that divides Negroes and whites.

The group, from the Catholic Action and Information Center here, has set about putting racial understanding on a personal basis.

The home visiting program isn't new. It has been introduced with success in such cities as Chicago, New York, Boston, Columbus and Cleveland. The priest behind the local program is Father Mark Zwick, who believes that you can't be a good Catholic and racially prejudiced, too.

Father Zwick, Mr. and Mrs. James Brown and Dr. Ronald Dull, a chiroprast, each led groups in making the first visits, first of their kind in the Youngstown diocese. Their first stop was the home of Dr. John Wright, pastor of Trinity Baptist church.

Catholics try personal approach in effort to scale racial barriers

made one statement which keeps going through my mind and is worth thinking about. He said that in every country outside the United States, he and his wife, Ruth, are Americans. But in the United States, he said, they're Negroes."

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Bell described the visit of the group as "a fine thing." She added: "A lot of colored people don't understand white people, and a lot of white people don't really know what colored people are like. For example, many whites have been told that Negroes aren't clean, and that our houses aren't clean. By coming to our homes, they find out how wrong they've been."

FOR MOST of the group, it was their first time inside a Negro home.

They heard first-hand reports that sub-standard conditions exist in a Warren public school in an all-Negro neighborhood; that some large Warren plants won't employ Negroes; and that decent housing in most instances has a "for whites only" tag.

The program, as Father Zwick sees it, will help do away with a good deal of prejudice. He asserts:

Pope is grateful

VATICAN CITY—His Holiness Pope John XXIII has used the device of sending a letter to his Secretary of State to voice his thanks to everyone who has expressed good wishes on his 80th birthday.

In the letter to Cardinal Angelo Cioffanti, Pope John noted that many had wished him a long life. To this he said: "May everyone say with happy and serene mind, 'the will of God, the will of God,' and nothing more."

Dr. Wright and his wife served coffee and doughnuts and talked unabashedly about racial problems. The conversation, recalls Brown, was thought provoking. He observed:

"Dr. Wright, who is widely traveled abroad,

Presbyterian seminarians visit Jesuits



FRIENDLY DISCUSSION—Don Nurath, left, Presbyterian seminarian, chats with James Serrick, S.J., center, and Vernon Rubend, S.J., right.

WEST BAHEN SPRINGS, Ind.—Eleven seminarians and two professors from the Louisville (Ky.) Presbyterian Seminary were guests of the faculty and student body of West Baden College, a Jesuit house of studies here.

According to Father William P. Lesant, S.J., dean of the West Baden School of Theology, the visitors were intensely interested in the altar, tabernacle and confessional of the college chapel. Also of special interest to the Presbyterian clerics were the college's theology library and periodical rooms.

Many of our seminarians were making their first contact with Catholic clerics," stated Dr. Albert C. Winn, professor of Systematic Theology at the Louisville Seminary. "We were curious to learn about the life of our Jesuit hosts."

Rev. Roger Dean, minister to the Presbyterian Church in North Vernon, Ind., remarked as he was leaving: "I'm surprised we have so much in common."