

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 22, 1933

Sermons tonight
7:00 - Fr. Miltner
7:45 - Fr. Clancy

Brownson Hall Has Filed Its Protest.

Brownson Hall has sent a protest to one of the local theatres, objecting to the immoral and irreligious character of the movies this theatre has been presenting of late. The protest bore the signatures of practically the entire student body in the hall.

We have heard of petitions of this sort started in other halls, but this is the first one filed so far as we know. If other halls have completed their canvas and sent in the petitions, we would like to publish the fact.

This is practical Catholic Action, the sort of thing the Holy Father has asked the laity to do. If religion is something we live, the world should know about it. If we don't demand Catholic principles in the life we lead, the world will never know what Catholic principles are - and the world needs Catholic principles if civilization is to endure.

The Scholastic last Friday carried the news that 25,000 women of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, members of the National Council of Catholic Women, have sent their protest to nine of the leading producers of moving pictures. That is excellent work.

In a letter published in the Chicago Tribune last Sunday, Mary Onahan Gallery protests against the character of the moving pictures offered recently in Chicago. In part her letter reads:

"Of ten films seen here recently, eight have been about gangsters and lovely ladies who have left their husbands to elope happily and triumphantly with their lovers. One (and two of our best known stars figured in this) was just the apotheosis of a thief. "For Adults Only" was the legend over the door, but it was only a legend. The theatre was full of children drinking it in open mouthed....

"In one of the many movies in which "Hell" figured in the title, a well known and clever actor stepped over the dead body of a woman, flicked his cigar ashes on it, and tipped his hat in derision as he left the room. There was nothing whatever in the lines to warrant these antics nor did anything in the character call for them. To cap the climax of brutality, in the last act he sits on the dead body to telephone. Of course, he was only a newspaper reporter and the rule of the films seems to be that decency, good manners, and good taste are not to be expected from one of that clan."

To jar your memories we repeat what you were told recently - that 12 of the largest amusement corporations in America, which showed a profit of \$6,305,000 in 1931, showed a loss of \$11,000,000 in 1932. (The invested capital shrank from \$293,000,000 to \$272,000,000 in 1932.)

Is it any wonder that the financial giants of the movies were in executive session in Hollywood when the earthquake came? They have something to worry about, for money is their chief interest in life.

Catholics have the situation in their hands if they will make use of their power. One-fifth of the population of the United States is Catholic; the movie-going population must show a larger proportion than this, for Catholics are largely city-dwellers. Start the ball rolling. Your protests will reach Hollywood; your protests will encourage other Catholics to insist on clean pictures. Let's make this Lent worth while.

PRAYERS: Father O'Malley, C.S.C., is reported dying. Deceased: Brother Robert, C.S.C. John Cameron's sister. Ill - Bro. Leander's mother; Victor Waufle (pneumonia); Dan McLaughlin (appendectomy); Regis McNamara's uncle; Wm. Mohlan, ex-'26; a friend. Five special intentions.