

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 6, 1933

Resent This Insult To Your Religion.

The Religious Bulletin sedulously avoids advertising obscene plays or pictures - to name them is to tempt the weak. We must depart from this policy in a current isolated instance, and we do so with the feeling that there isn't a student at Notre Dame low enough to be tempted to see this picture after he reads what Bishop Schrembs says of it:

A few days ago the city was made aware through the medium of newspaper, bill board and other advertising that a beautiful film was to be shown in a local theatre.

Nothing was spared to dazzle the eye or stir the heart; it had a wonderful name -- "The Sign of the Cross." My! What a proud name; what a headline! Surely we might expect a beautiful and inspiring spectacle.

But it was all damnable hypocrisy! For under that name, The Sign of the Cross, which was only a subterfuge in order to trap the unwary, there was spilled out upon us all of the nastiness, all of the filth, all of the dirt, the human mind and heart could conceive, and a specimen of wishy-washy Christianity.

There is one way to stop such things. Catholics can make known to the managers of theatres that they resent such pictures, and that they will withdraw their patronage from theatres which show them.

Realism Has Cut Its Own Throat.

Arthur Hopkins, in The New Outlook, has a splendid short article on the disappearance of the legitimate theatre. He blames realism for it (quite justly, we think), and makes this plea for the return of beauty:

"It would seem that realism has had more than a reasonable opportunity to justify itself. Too many able people have given their lives to climbing its glass walls. I am in favor of a conclave of dramatists who pronounce its banishment. Let them tear up their note books and plot charts and go into deep communion with their own souls. Let them unearth the treasures of their own unconscious and bring us beauty and dream again.

"Let us stop jeering at people who complain of the ugliness of the theatre on the ground that there is enough ugliness in every-day life. They are wiser than we have been.

"When the theatre touches every-day life let it bring some new illumination, some new understanding. Let it deal freely with the mass problems of every-day life, with the machine, with hunger, with stupidity in high places, but in terms that bind us closer together. Open all doors to the poets. The theatre hungers for them. They are frightened off by our mediocrity, our ugliness, and realism. Beauty is the one over-production that America need never fear. The theatre is its natural home. When Beauty returns to the theatre its vitality will cease to ebb."

Alms.

For the poor: \$20 (thanks for exams); \$5.00; \$2.00; \$2.00; \$1.00; \$1.00; \$.50. It all helps, and it is much needed. Thanks, in the name of the poor.

PRAYERS: Deceased - Wm. Rockenstein's mother; the mother of John S. Hummer, '90; relatives of Wm. and Walter Bernard, Anthony Marra; Joe Dennis Murphy, '28 (first anniversary today). Prayers were requested recently for a young bride suffering from cancer; her condition is worse; please continue praying. Five special intentions.