
Is There a MAN in the House?

A couple of weeks ago you were given a test in Catholic Action. You have fallen down on it!

You were given a chance for lay leadership. You muffed it!

Why? Because not a student here has shown the courage of Veronica, the woman who is pictured in the Sixth Station as wiping the face of Our Blessed Saviour on His way to Calvary. Veronica overcame human respect. A brutal mob surrounded Our Lord, jeering Him. The Apostles had fled, all but John. His friends had deserted Him in fear. A lone woman had courage. She made her way through the mob and wiped the sweating, bleeding Face. Christ left the imprint of His Face on the towel for her reward.

She had courage! So had Joan of Arc, when France was bled white with the Hundred Years War, and God raised up a woman to save France - France, which, if it had been a fief of England a few years later, would have been torn like England with the schism that followed in the wake of Henry VIII's lust.

Are we going to have to wait for some woman to lead the crusade against immoral shows?

A couple of weeks ago we gave you a hint. We offered the suggestion that you start a protest in your hall against indecent shows. We wanted it to come from you, because we want to train you to Catholic Action. We have heard of three protests getting under way. Whether or not they reached the theatres we do not know. If they did, their volume has not been what it should have been, from the character of the plays the local theatres have offered since then.

You have the situation in your hands if you will only act. Don't wait for the priests to do it. The laity, not the priests, support the theatres. The twenty million Catholics in the United States can clean up the stage if they will withdraw their patronage until the stage is clean. You could turn the trick in six months.

Why the optimistic figure? Here are the statistics:

In 1931, 12 of the largest amusement corporations, with a net worth of \$292,923,000, showed a profit of \$6,305,000 - a net return of 2.2%, meagre, but something.

In 1932, these same corporations, with a net worth of \$272,056,000 (a drop of 4.7%), showed a loss of \$11,346,000 - a heavy loss, even in bad times.

Does that mean anything to you? Does it explain anything? From what we hear of the general run of movies the past year, Hollywood has become an inexhaustible sewer, emptying its filth over the whole world. The magnates must be frantic at their losses, and in their frenzy they are grinding out dirtier and dirtier dirt, on the theory that only dirt pays. The fact that their dirt hasn't paid doesn't seem to have struck them yet. It's up to you to tell them so!

If every hall at Notre Dame will send a 100% protest to the local theatres which receive student patronage, and will then stick by that protest, and if the Catholic organizations over the country follow the lead of Notre Dame - which they will - six months will clean up the stage. With a net loss of \$11,000,000 last year, the money-grabbers can't get along without the patronage of Catholics - and they know it.

We can do this if there is a MAN in every hall at Notre Dame. Let's see about it.