

CONGRATULATIONS!! More than  
4000 Communions Mother's Day  
and Ascension Thursday!

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
May 19, 1950

Sunday Sermon: Fraternal  
Charity. Fr. Lochner: 7 & 9;  
Fr. John Walsh: 8, 10:10, 11:10.

Your Questions Answered

"ARE WE AS CATHOLICS BOUND TO AVOID "B" AND "C" PICTURES WHEN THEY ARE SO LISTED IN THE CATHOLIC PRESS?"

Reply: a) It can be safely said that any Catholic who would go to see a picture classified as "C" under the Legion of Decency rating, would be guilty of mortal sin. This for one of three reasons: either because of deliberate contempt for ecclesiastical authority, or because the person deliberately places himself in a proximate occasion of mortal sin, or because he gives grave scandal by his presence at such a movie. The only exception that would allow the ordinary Catholic to attend a "C" movie would be in the event that the Legion of Decency should err in its judgment of the merits of a particular motion picture--a most improbable eventuality because those who comprise the reviewing board are competent and scholarly authorities.

b) In regard to moving pictures classed as "B" by the Legion of Decency, it would be impossible to set down one definite, all-embracing principle that would be applicable to all persons in all places under all circumstances. Father Francis Connell, C.S.S.R., one of the outstanding moral theologians in the country, has the following to say about "B" typed pictures:

"The most difficult moral problem in connection with the movies centers about the lawfulness of attending a "B" picture. It is a problem that cannot be settled by a general answer--each individual case must be considered. To understand this point we must bear in mind that occasions of sin are, to a certain measure, relative. Accordingly, a certain picture might be a proximate occasion of sin to one person, whereas to another it would be only a remote occasion or no occasion at all. Some persons of advanced age could witness a representation of passionate lovemaking without any other emotion than disgust, while the same scene might incite grave temptation in others. Married persons might safely witness scenes that would be very dangerous to the unmarried."

"With these facts in mind, we can perceive the significance of the "B" classification of certain pictures. These contain scenes or dialogue that would be very dangerous to the faith or morals of some persons, but not of others. From this standpoint, the reply to a person who wishes his conscience settled in the matter of attending a certain motion picture would be conditional: 'If the picture is a proximate occasion of sin for YOU, it would be a sin for YOU to see it; if it is not such an occasion, it would not be a sin--at least not a grave sin.' And it would be well to add that those to whom a picture would be a proximate occasion of grave sin, would commit a mortal sin, by attending."

"Furthermore, when the board of censorship rate a picture as objectionable in part, they are presumed to mean that it is likely to lead some persons into grave sin (not merely venial sin), so that for such persons to attend would be seriously wrong. And by 'some persons' is meant, not merely a small number of abnormal individuals, but a notable proportion of average people...therefore a person would commit a mortal sin by attending a "B" picture that constitutes for him a proximate occasion of grave sin, or if by attending he gave grave scandal to others."

Prayers: (Deceased) Father of John Hayes (Cav); uncle of Brothers Roderic & Nilus CSC; Uncle of Jim Maloody (Zahm); Grandfather of Bob Straley (St. Eds.); friend of Geo. Lang (Zahm); Cash Wollenberg; ILL Aunt of Dan Hardin (F).

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\* PLEASE: It is most disrespectful to attend Mass or receive Holy Communion \*  
\* when you are docted out in a T-shirt or sweat-shirt! 'Nuff said! \*  
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