

Deceased: father of Micky  
Carroll; friend of Bill Guil-  
foile; uncle of Fr. Grimm.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 6, 1951

Ill: uncle of Tom Driscoll;  
operation, mother of Art Hal-  
ligan; Sally Johnson.

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The Legion of Decency.

Last summer the International Catholic Cinema Office met in Lucerne, Switzerland, to discuss among other things the responsibilities of a Catholic film critic. Priest and layman delegates agreed that the responsibility for the moral classification of movies belongs, not to the critic, but to the teaching magisterium of the Church, particularly the Bishops and those whom they appoint for the purpose. Our National Legion of Decency is the voice of our Bishops on movie morality.

In reviewing a movie of artistic merit, which is unfavorably classified from the moral point of view, "the critic must above all things be truthful. . . While dealing with the artistic qualities of the film he must give, in his review, due proportion to the official moral objections: a mere mention of these is not sufficient."

It is the Legion of Decency's moral classification, not the critic's, which carries with it official recommendation or a warning and an obligation to stay away from morally objectionable movies.

This service which is provided by the Legion of Decency is often wasted effort. But that does not destroy the intrinsic value of such service. Warnings may arouse the curiosity of Catholics weak in their faith; for others it is a test of faith and an opportunity to prove their loyalty to the Church. Loyalty involves obedience, and it was Christ Who said: "If he will not hear the Church, let him be to thee as the heathen and the publican."

Show Penitment.

His Excellency, Bishop John F. Noll of Fort Wayne, in a lead editorial in a recent issue of OUR SUNDAY VISITOR urges all Catholics to renew the pledge of the Legion of Decency, which they take on the Sunday within the Octave of the Immaculate Conception.

This pledge, the Bishop says, obligates Catholics to remain away not only from "C" movies, but also from the "B". Pictures are rated "A, Section I," which are suitable for everyone, including children, and "A, Section II," which are objectionable in part and, therefore, unsuited for children, but tolerated for adults. But the "B" pictures, as well as the "C", should not be patronized by any Catholic.

Our Bishop also points out that while Catholics should not attend any "B" movie, they particularly should not for a long time patronize the theatre which scheduled a "C" picture but failed to show it only because of protests.

Well-meaning advisors will probably upbraid us for singling out STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE. As a stage play it is condemned as completely objectionable. As a movie it is classified by the Legion of Decency as a "B" picture because of suggestive dialogue and scenes, and low moral tone. Movie critic William Mooring said that no attempt was made to avoid exploiting emotional disorders resulting in utter debasement. . . Sign magazine says of it: "This case history of a sordid episode is neither edifying nor entertaining. . . It is not recommended for any audience."

A National Legion of Decency List is posted in the Dillon Hall pamphlet room.

Some Poor Souls Are Poor Suckers.

But through no fault of their own. The predication is crude, but judging from last year's number of lists of deceased there will be many Poor Souls who have sons, brothers, friends and pals on campus who will do nothing to bail them out with prayers, Masses and indulgences. . . Let's see improvement this year. . . Deposit your lists of deceased in the boxes at Dillon, Howard and Cavanaugh pamphlet racks.