

Tonight at 6:45: The
Novena to the Sorrowful
Mother.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 12, 1954

No Adoration in the Lady
Chapel on Saturdays of
Lent.

Big Boys And Bad Manners ?

"Dear Father Hesburgh:

"I went to the movie at the Palace theatre, last Friday night, and was disgusted at your boys' reaction to the females in the cast of a movie made in Italy... Your boys are loud, and rowdy at our movies. I am ashamed to go to a movie with a date during a weekend because some of the things they openly come out with are certainly embarrassing... They do not advertize our religion very well... You priests are falling down on the job because you do not stress enough the practical aspects, and the human qualities that should be displayed by good Catholics. You should bring religion down to earth... Please remind your students to pray for Christian ethics, human dignity, and fear of God. We need these very much today...

-- A South Bend Catholic."

We don't relish being made the scapegoat for noises that emanate from darkened theatres. We'd like very much to know if the offenders were actually Notre Dame students. It's not much fun bearing the brunt of South Bend's misguided teen-age vandals. The charge can be as stupid as the crime, if you don't know what you're talking about.

And so, if the good lady mistook South Bend high school children for Notre Dame students, there isn't much we can do about her remarks. And we need not worry. Our own interior and correct assurances that we are innocent of the charges are sufficient. Our absence from downtown theatres during Lent would add further proof. It would also throw the problem right back into the South Bend lap -- where it belongs.

If She Were Correct ...

Then we have a few of you to thank for labeling 5000 of us as crude, vulgar, uncouth rowdies. In that case you are the ones who are unfair to your own school. Right?

If she were correct, then the few of you share in a word that Our Lord used for this sort of conduct -- bad example (scandal) -- and promised to punish with great severity. In that case, there is much for the guilty to worry about. Right?

Why? Because it is not a matter of being detected by the management, or by disciplinary authorities, or police, or pious South Bend ladies whose pious ears are blistered by vulgarities, or any other human agency.

No, it becomes a moral matter, and reaches far beyond discipline and good taste. For there is a Recording Angel who sees through the confusion of the mob; who is not bewildered by the darkness of the theatre; who is in no great hurry; who overlooks nothing; who ever reads minds and hearts --- and who records everything. And finally an hour will come -- the hour of Judgment -- for an accounting.

In that dreadful hour, God help the man who gave scandal!

Mistaken?

Could she have been mistaken? After attending movies in Washington Hall, we wonder! Was it a snap judgment on her part? We wonder!

PLAYERS -- Deceased: father of Robert Sheehan, '43; friend of Tom Swope of Lyons; Mrs. John O'Grady; Patrick and Mary Ryan; Ann Healey; aunt of Ed Christiano of Alumni. Ill: father of Mike Davis of Howard; cousin of Paul Johnson of Zahm; Larry Andrew.