

Tonight at 6:45: Novena
Services as usual. Then
go caroling with St. Mary's.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 13, 1957

Sunday: Collection at all
the Masses for charitable
appeals made to this office.

The Legion Of Decency

You were told some weeks ago, at the Mission, that the main purpose of a Notre Dame education is to teach men how to die well. Part of that job comes under the chapter which teaches them how to live in order to die well.

In the present world degeneracy, the greatest enemy to the state of grace is the scourge of impurity. The watchword of our day is ease - comfort - luxury. They all amount to a worship of pleasure. Penance, mortification, self-denial -- they stand on the sidelines, a hopeless minority, ill-treated, ignored, despised.

There's hardly a week goes by that some theatre manager in South Bend does not put a huge add in the local paper, promising the public such a display of passion as would shock Nero and his pagan pals; and the lead-heads of the campus catch on in a hurry and flock downtown to support this latest venture into impurity. (Odd, isn't it, how a newspaper that looks askance at tobacco and beer and wine ads, hesitates not at all to parade filthy pictures!)

Time and again the Bulletin has pointed out that where grace is active, the Devil is more active. He doesn't have to work hard in places where his agents have full sway; the world does his work very well. But the very idea of Notre Dame enrages him. "The seed of the woman shall crush the serpent's head," was God's promise to Adam when He turned him away from Paradise. Mary alone, of all God's creatures born of Adam, was never under the sway of the Devil through Original Sin; and through Mary was Redemption accomplished. Imagine, then, how mightily Satan must blaspheme God when he finds here under the mantle of Mary six thousand young men who might be out using their brains to advance the cause of the Kingdom of Hell!

The Devil is mad at Notre Dame, again, because God has chosen this place to build up another safeguard of youthful purity -- devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Not only would he have you debauch yourselves, and make sport of noble ideals; but he would wreck you so completely that he would use you for a tool to spread his work. The higher you are, the lower you fall. When he gets Notre Dame men to support a daring Hollywood production, he goes far in selling the idea to the natives of the locality that this is the clever thing to do -- support the moronic production. Nothing would delight the Devil more than an army of Notre Dame's daily communicants turning away from that noble practice, to lead the neighborhood astray.

Using one's influence for good is practicing the charity of Christ, and showing regard for one's neighbor. It's using our good influence on the side of God. It will cause our neighbor to bless us on the Day of Judgment, too, as we await the glad words, "Come, ye blessed ..."

A box-office flop is anathema to Hollywood -- the one thing movieland cannot tolerate; the one argument that makes more sense than anything else in all the world. Your staying away from cheap productions causes a box-office flop, and puts an end to that type of picture. It's that simple.

At the pamphlet racks you'll find a movie guide arranged by the Legion of Decency. Consult it before you put on your Notre Dame jacket, or monogram, and rush down to the village offerings. You'll be doing yourself a service, as well as the school and the Christian world in which you live. This Sunday, militant Catholics throughout the nation renew their pledge of the Legion of Decency. This is a reminder for you to take your stand on the side of God and decency -- such as the Patroness of our school symbolizes, and your Catholic Faith teaches. It is also a part of our firm purpose of amendment -- a resolve to avoid the occasions of sin.