

# Challenge Hollywood On Films For Latin America Showings

Latin-American Catholics are organizing, in collaboration with their fellow Catholics of North America, a Legion of Decency to protect the showing of indecent motion pictures, according to editorials in current issues of several Catholic Latin-American weeklies.

The invitation of the Argentine magazine *Criteria* for Latin-American Catholics to collaborate with North American Catholics in their campaign for decent motion pictures, and for the Catholic Press in Spanish-speaking countries to publish regularly the Legion of Decency lists, has found ready response.

Catholic publications in Cuba, Guatemala, Panama and El Salvador have already rallied to the new movement for better movies, and the other countries are expected to follow.

### Answers Charge

This mass movement on the part of Latin-American Catholics

against the movies, most of which are produced in Hollywood, gives swift confirmation to the recent charge of Frank Gervasi, well-known *Criteria's* correspondent, that Hollywood is the most formidable obstacle to our Good Neighbor Policy and the promotion of Pan American relations.

In his current book, "But Soldiers Wondered Why," Gervasi states:

"Our worst enemy in the southern continent, next to the proliferating exploiters of South American workers, has been Hollywood. Operating apparently on the theory that they were sending to South America what 'these Latins' wanted, our bright Hollywoodians have been shipping down the most unrepresentative possible films, depicting us as a nation of gangsters, assassins and silly cowboys, of shufflers and profiteers, or as members of a superficial night-clubby civilization reflecting that very decadence which Hitler attributes to us.

"Exiles have repeatedly used these films in Chile and Argentina to prove that Americans are an ungodly lot and therefore unworthy of the friendship and loyalty of Chileans and Argentinians. Invariably the weaknesses of our national life I heard vilified in both countries were the weaknesses portrayed by our own films and newscasts. When we were trying desperately to prove to our neighbors in South America that we were working hard to make the weapons which would win the war, our newscasts showed Chileans and Argentinians shots of surfboarding Florida, a in scanty bathing suits and of cowboys riding Brahms bulls. Meanwhile the Germans were showing pictures like Victory in the West and mightily impressing South Americans with the power of Nazi arms."

Acting upon the suggestion of *Argentina's Criteria*, the Havana weekly, *Semanario Catolico*, also urges Cuban Catholics to take up "the great battle, the outcome of which depends upon the union of Catholics, their will and their spirit of sacrifice. Even the great majority of films classified as A, the weekly notes, lack "a positive Catholic content." Listing some of the more objectionable "motives on which the cinema gravitates," the Cuban paper says these crowd out of the minds "that traditional vestige of Christian morality, so saturated with nobly and idealizing austerity."

### Urges Boycott

*Semanario Catolico* specifically indicts Hollywood as "the gigantic laboratory where all this noxious commodity is packed." This same Cuban weekly calls for a "boycott" against Hollywood by Catholics of both North and South America.

Commenting *Criteria's* invitation, Guatemala's Catholic weekly, *Verbum*, declares the chief peril of the present day movies is found "in the sexual order," and fears that they may be accepted as "characteristic of the time in which we live." This weekly especially scores the damage done by immoral and indecent movies to the child "whose emotions he buried within and may well burst out in real pathological explosions, sometimes criminal as has already happened among us." Admitting that movie producers cannot be influenced by any moral appeal, *Verbum* declares "social censure means nothing so long as it does not affect them economically."

In endorsing the plan for joint action by all American Catholics, *Adelante*, weekly magazine of

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## RESCUED MISSIONARY BISHOP



This picture is believed to be the first to arrive in this country showing the missionary Bishop Thomas Wade, S. M., since his rescue by American troops. Bishop Wade, who comes from Providence, R. I., is Vicar Apostolic of the North Solomon Islands. He had been hiding in the jungle for many months. Wearing his pectoral cross over a khaki shirt, he stands between U. S. Navy Chaplain Joseph O'Neill and U. S. Army Chaplain Gesward. They are standing before a temporary altar near the grave of the Rev. Arthur C. Duhamel, S. M., of Boston, one of four missionaries murdered by the Japanese at Guadalcanal. (N.C.W.C.)

# Italy Assured Of Religious Freedom By Gen. Eisenhower

NEW YORK (NC)—Freedom of religion was insured to the Italian people by Gen. Dwight Eisenhower in a proclamation broadcast to the people of Sicily, according to reports received by the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service.

Speaking in his capacity of commander-in-chief of the Allied invasion forces, Gen. Eisenhower in his proclamation, which was directed by Allied radios to the people of the beleaguered island stated:

"Liberty of religion will be maintained and, provided military operations are not affected, liberties of speech and of the press will be instituted. Measures for the rapid liberation of political prisoners will be taken. A special court for the defense of the State will be abolished.

The proclamation stated the Allied forces in occupying Italian soil, "are acting, not as enemies of the Italian people, but as the ineluctable consequence of their war which has the aim to destroy the dominating force of Germany in Europe." Gen. Eisenhower declared the goal of the Allies "is

to free the people of Italy from the Fascist regime, which dragged it into war" and also "to restore Italy as a free nation."

"The Allied forces do not have the intention of changing or minimizing the laws and the traditional customs of the Italian people," he said. "Nonetheless, all measures necessary to eliminate the Fascist system in any Italian territory occupied by their forces will be taken. Consequently the Fascist Party will be dissolved together with all its connected associations such as the Fascist militia, and the so-called Fascist Youth Organization. The doctrine of propaganda of the Fascist Party under whatever form it may appear will be prohibited. No political activity of any kind will be immediately taken for the abrogation of all racial laws and of those discriminating between the people because of color or religion."

## DISCONTINUE SCHEDULED APPEARANCES OF QUINTS

NORTH BAY, Ont. — Tourists passing on the highway may still see the Dionne Quintuplets playing on the grounds of their nursery, but all scheduled appearances have been cancelled, it is announced by Keith Murray, business manager of the Dionne Quintuplets.

The parents and guardians of the famous sisters believe that it is no longer fair to the "Quints" to be exhibited publicly in this manner.

## Fr. Gehring's Story Told In First Issue of 'Catholic Heroes' Paper

NEW YORK The Volume 1, Number 1, issue of "Catholic Heroes," a four-page, tabloid size publication of the National Headquarters of the Holy Name Society of New York, is devoted exclusively to the Rev. Frederick P. Gehring, C. M., a lieutenant in the Navy and one of the outstanding chaplains of the war.

Characterized the "Gaudian" as "Chaplain," Father Gehring's exploits and bravery, which en-

deared him to the Marine and Army troops who wrested the Solomon Islands from the Japanese, are told in a number of stories in the issue, which also published a number of letters that the priest wrote to his mother, Mrs. Marie Gehring, who resides in Brooklyn. The publication states in a first-page announcement its intention to publish in the future issues the stories of outstanding Catholic heroes of the war.



BASILICA OF SAN LORENZO, in Rome, which suffered serious damage during the bombing of nearby military objectives. His Holiness Pope Pius XII left the Vatican to inspect the damage and addressed words of faith and comfort to the crowds. Built about the year 330, the Basilica was enlarged in the 16th century and completed in 1716. It contains the tomb of Pope Pius IX. (N.C.W.C.)

# Rumors About Vatican And Rome Bombing Branded As False

VATICAN CITY (NC)—A whole series of rumors and false reports regarding the Vatican which have been spread abroad in recent days have been exploded and branded as absolutely without basis in fact, in comment by competent Vatican circles.

Declared to be absolutely without foundation is the report originating with *Corrispondenza*, an Italian agency, which said His Holiness Pius XII had indicated that if Rome were bombed again he would leave the Vatican and go out into the Eternal City. The report said His Holiness would go into Rome while the bombardment actually was taking place. If another bombardment should come

Noting that *Corrispondenza* alleged to have its information from Vatican sources, Vatican circles declare that these unauthorized

sources have nothing in common with the Vatican or the Holy See.

Vatican circles also declare to be without foundation the report that Italy, Rumania and Hungary have in the past sought the mediation of the Holy See for the arrangement of a separate peace.

Still a third report declared by Vatican circles to be baseless is a story circulated by DNB, the German news agency. This report had it that His Excellency Monsignor Giovanni Battista Montini, Papal Undersecretary of State, and Harold Timmann, United States Charge d'Affaires at the Vatican, had a lengthy conversation concerning the bombardment of Rome.

# Try In Vain To Make Rome An 'Open City'

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resent insistent admonition to a noble understanding of the exalted conception of Rome. In this connection, the broadcast adds, "It must be emphasized that Rome is indeed something without equal. This singularity should be respected in the interests of humanity and civilization and Christian love."

One of the Pope's first diplomatic moves after Italy entered the war in 1940, according to a New York Times correspondent, was to request the French and

British governments not to bomb or shell Rome.

In the latter part of June, 1940, the Times writer reports, Francis d'Arcy Godolphin, British minister to the Vatican, informed Pope Pius in a private audience that Prime Minister Churchill realized the sacred character of the Italian capital and "would do everything in his power not to bomb the city, and in all circumstances rigorously respect its religious monuments and buildings."

Because the British Government refused to give an ironclad guarantee, the Pope decided to remain in Rome for the duration of the war refusing even to vacation in Castle Gandolfo, the Papal villa twelve miles from Rome.

The Holy Father had hoped that the presence of his sacred person would save the Eternal City from the violations of war.

With Premier Mussolini out and events transpiring with great rapidity in Italy necessity for future bombing of Rome will depend upon the continued military activity in Italy's capital. Secular news reports indicate great activity in Rome for bringing about peace.

## CANADA COMMONS OPPOSED TO LIFTING BAN ON REDS, JEHOVAH WITNESSES

OTTAWA (NC) Members of the special committee of the House of Commons, set up to consider any possible revision of the Defense of Canada Regulations, are understood to have decided that there will be no recommendation to lift the ban which now exists on the Communist Party or the Witnesses of Jehovah. The Defense of Canada Regulations make it illegal for any person to belong to the Communist Party or the Witnesses of Jehovah.

## Church Restored

Cuttack, India — Through the zealous efforts of the clergy and parishioners of the parish of Our Lady, Queen of the Missions, here, the Church, rectory, convent and the Sacred Heart Nursery, for orphans, which were damaged by a cyclone some months ago, have been repaired fully at a cost of more than 2,000 rupees.

## Finds Catholic Press Ads Pay

LONDON "Catholic newspaper advertising pays" is the verdict of the Rev. T. A. Turner, organizer of the Liverpool metropolitan cathedral.

Reporting that donations to the fund for building the Lady Chapel of the projected cathedral of Christ the King amounted to \$2,270 last month, Father Turner said, more than two-thirds of this came in response to paid announcements in the Catholic papers.