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### Fatima Story Given Fine Production at Mercy High

By KATHLEEN KENNELLY

If the Blessed Mother is pleased that more Rochesterians are saying her Rosary with new devotion this week, she can thank an inspiring play, "Lady of Fatima," which is thrilling reverent audiences nightly at Mercy High Auditorium.

The play tells the absorbing story of the Blessed Virgin's revelations to mankind at Fatima, Portugal in 1917, and the impact of their meaning for a world once again threatened with war and the growing power of godless Soviet Russia.

SPONSORED BY the Rochester Diocesan Holy Name Union, Father Urban Nagle's religious drama in twelve scenes will close a week's run with four final performances on Saturday and Sunday evenings at 8:30 p.m. plus Saturday and Sunday matinees for children at 2:30 p.m. Reserved seats and general admission tickets are available at the box office or the Holy Name Union office, 35 Selo Street.

For years Catholics have heard and read about the challenging message spoken by Our Lady in this very generation when she appeared six times to three children in an open field near Fatima.

BUT NEVER, before the Dominican playwright, Father Nagle, cast the story into modern play form, have average American Catholics sensed the drama or the seriousness of the "Lady's" revelation that the Rosary, and penance are the only keys to lasting world peace.

Directed by Willford Scott, a cast of 14 performers accurately has conveyed both the historical events of the apparitions and the underlying spiritual significance of Mary's heavenly warning.

Surrounded by near perfect scenic lighting and costumes, the amateur cast projects the business of the play's theme with exuberant reverence. The piety and the aura of the supernatural never harm the theatrical qualities which make the story pleasant entertainment.

THE PLOT is told in a series of flashbacks introduced by conventional scenes on a side stage where a Portuguese gentleman discusses the facts of the Fatima story with a cynical French journalist and an American scientist and a German priest.

Joseph Shale as the host Domingos is excellent in keeping the story well-paced and in answering the puzzled skepticism of his guests. Raymond P. Weiss, Edith W. Murphy and John A. Dean.

As Maria Santos, mother of Lucia, the youngest child visionary, Loyd H. Leon has the play's heaviest dramatic part. She shows complete understanding of the anguished doubt which the apparitions brought to her poor home.

Other parental roles are handled adequately by Joan Moore, Robert Bride and Arthur Fuchs Jr. Outstanding in the parts of prisoners in a humorous jail scene are Lloyd C. Hubbard, Gene A. Midnight, Ned Trama and James Skelly.

TWO SETS of children perform on alternate nights in the roles of Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, the youngsters who saw the apparitions. Barbara Tettebaum, Marjorie Verduyasse and Patrick Roddy form one excellent trio while Mary Ellen Sherwood, Marjorie Heiler and Eugene R. Waters play the other performance.

Lucy Reichart is the Blessed Virgin who appears miraculously to speak to the children. The two stage apparitions are delicately handled to convey the spiritual majesty of Mary's pleading for more prayer and penance in the world.

All seats for the Sunday evening performance will be on a general admission basis with no reserved seat charges.

### BEST IRISH PERFORMERS



Two well-known Catholics, Jim and Marian Jordan, known and loved by millions of radio fans as Fibber McGee and Molly, were elected "outstanding Irish performers of the year" by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in a national ballot. They are shown holding statues of St. Patrick and St. Bridget, presented to them by Dennis Day (left), who won the award last year. (NC Photos.)

### Holy Week Dramas Planned For Religious Radio Shows

A dramatic retelling of the events of the first Good Friday will be the theme of The Greatest Story Ever Told on WARC and WAGE, Syracuse, this Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. Dedicated to vivid recreation of the story of Christ's life, this Holy Week program called "Betrayal and Crucifixion" on April 10 will be followed by "The Resurrection" on Easter Sunday night.

ALSO PLANNED for Easter Sunday night at 8:30 p.m. is a full hour tribute called "The Triumphant Hour" produced by the Rev. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., director of the Family Rosary Crusade. Following the style of previous Christmas and Easter programs in which the prayers and mysteries of the Rosary were dramatized, Father Peyton will have nineteen Catholic stars of the entertainment world to assist. Bing Crosby, Dan Dailey, Dennis Day, Irene Dunne, Jimmy Durante, Fibber McGee and Molly, Loretta Young, Robert Ryan and Elizabeth Scott will appear. Locally the program will be carried by WVET, WGVA, Geneva and WMBO Auburn.

A SPECIAL Holy Week program, Wednesday, April 13, on the Family Theater over the Mutual network will star Ethel Barrymore in a play on the Passion and Death of Christ. The script, prepared directly from the Scriptures, tells the dramatic events of Our Lord's last days on earth. Tune WVET, WGVA and WMBO at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

FATHER EUGENE BURKE, C.S.P., of the faculty of Catholic University is the Passion-tide speaker for the Hour of Faith program on ABC network every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. This week's topic is "By Patience to the Fight."

A LENTEN STORY in which the passion of Christ is compared with the trial and conviction of Cardinal Mindszenty is the offering of the Hour of St. Francis on WSAY this Sunday at 6:30 p.m. William Gargan, movie star, is the narrator and Bob Mitchell's Boy Choir will sing. The play shows a startling parallel between the carefully arranged plots in Jerusalem and Budapest.

TALKING IT OVER, a weekly informal discussion of Catholic truths by the Rev. Eugene

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### Fr. Peyton Signs 19 Stars For Easter Rosary Program

Hollywood, Calif. (NC)—Nineteen stars of the entertainment world will take part in the annual Easter broadcast, "The Triumphant Hour," produced by the Family Rosary Crusade. It has been announced by the Rev. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. crusade founder.

Dealing with the prayers and mysteries of the Rosary, the program will be carried throughout the nation over the Mutual Broadcasting System. It will feature Jimmy Durante originate from Hollywood with cut-ins from New York, on Easter Sunday (April 17) from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. EST.

(WVET, WMBO and WGVA will carry the program for listeners of the Rochester Diocese.)

THOSE FEATURED on the broadcast will include Ethel Barrymore who will serve as narrator reading an appropriate meditation for each mystery; Pedro de Cordoba, Bing Crosby, Dan Dailey, Dennis Day, Irene Dunne, Jimmy Durante, Anne Jamison, Rita Johnson, Christopher Lynch, Dorothy Maynor, Fibber McGee and Molly, J. Carroll Nash, Rosalind Russell, Robert Ryan, Elizabeth Scott, Dean Stockwell and Loretta Young.

Mr. Crosby will open the program with a brief introductory speech. The soloists will include Miss Jamison who will sing Mozart's "Allentia"; Mr. Day, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"; Mr. Lynch, "Pater Angelicus"; Miss Maynor, Gounod's "Ave Maria"; and Mr. Crosby "O Sanctissima."

At the conclusion of the program, Mr. Durante will introduce Father Peyton, who will make a brief address.

The Mutual Broadcasting System orchestras in Hollywood and in New York will take part. The script for the broadcast has been prepared by the Rev. Timothy Mulvey, O.M.I., the Rev. Raymond Finan, C.S.C. of Rochester, N. Y. and Mark Kearney.

**MOVIE GUIDE**

**RKO PALACE**  
 Down to the Sea in Ships, A 1  
 Miss Mink of 1949, A 2

**TEMPLE**  
 The Setup (no listing)  
 Adventures of Gallant Bess, A 1

**PARAMOUNT**  
 E. Pao, B  
 Let's Live a Little, B  
 Parole, Inc., A 2

**CAPITOL**  
 Whispering Smith, A 1  
 The Decision of Christopher Blake, A 2

**RIVIERA & STATE**  
 Boy with Green Hair, A 1  
 Shockproof, B

**MADISON & MONROE**  
 Command Decision, A 1  
 Rusty Leads the Way, A 1

**LIBERTY**  
 He Walked By Night, A 2  
 Nighttime in Nevada, A 1

**DIXIE**  
 Mexican Hayride, A 2  
 Hollow Triumph, A 2

**CAMEO**  
 Letter to Three Wives, A 2  
 Michael O'Halloran, A 2

**WEST END**  
 Mexican Hayride, A 2  
 Hollow Triumph, A 2

**LAKE**  
 That Wonderful Urge, B  
 Larceny, A 2

**RIALTO**  
 Letter to Three Wives, A 2  
 Urub, A 2

**TEMPLE**  
 Whispering Smith, A 1  
 Henry the Rain Maker, A 1

**LAUREL**  
 He Walked By Night, A 2  
 In This Corner, A 2  
 The Boy with Green Hair, A 1  
 Whispering City, A 2

**ROCHESTER DRIVE IN**  
 The Swordsman, A 1

**'No More C Films,'**  
**Movie Owner Pledges**

(Covington, Ky.) (NC)—The manager of a local drive in theater has made a public pledge in a letter to the editor of The Messenger-Covington diocesan weekly, that he will not show "C" pictures. He is a member of the Legion of Decency. At the same time he expressed regret over the showing at a theater last fall of the condemned film "More and More," the Catholic publication had protested the showing.

**PALACE**

"Down to the Sea in Ships"

REV. RAYMOND FINAN, C.S.C. Host

"Miss Mink of 1949"

REV. MICHAEL O'HALLORAN, C.S.C. Host

**PARAMOUNT**

J. Payne & O. Russell in "E. PAO"

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 Plus: 1000  
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W. J. Conner, R. Cummings, L. F. L. Little & Little  
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 C. Wilde & W. Pidgeon "COMMAND DECISION"  
 T. Donaldson & M. Moffet "Rusty Leads The Way"

**LIBERTY**  
 R. Baschert & B. Brady "He Walked By Night"  
 E. Rogers & J. Mann "SHOCKING IN NEVADA"

**CAMEO**  
 J. Crain & I. Darnell "Letter To Three Wives"  
 S. Backett & A. Roberts "Michael O'Halloran"

**WEST END**  
 Abbott & Costello "MEXICAN HAYRIDE"  
 P. Henred & J. Bennett "HOLLOW TRIUMPH"

**DIXIE**  
 Abbott & Costello "MEXICAN HAYRIDE"  
 P. Henred & J. Bennett "HOLLOW TRIUMPH"

**LAKE**  
 T. Power & G. Tierney "That Wonderful Urge"  
 J. Payne & J. Crutfield "LARCENY"

**RIALTO**  
 J. Crain & I. Darnell "Letter To Three Wives"  
 G. Breakston & W. Coplen "URUB"

**TEMPLE**  
 A. Ladd & R. Preston "WHISPERING SMITH"  
 R. Waldron & W. Tracy "Henry the Rain Maker"