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Only Free Man Can Evaluate Freedom Says Psychologist

By FAWN SCHEFFEL

"The Man who is free is capable of making the right choice," Pere Noel Mailloux, O.P., told 200 persons at the Thomas More Lecture Forum Tuesday evening in the Sheraton Hotel.

Speaking on "Freedom, Man's Greatest Achievement," Father Mailloux quoted St. Thomas Aquinas as saying that man faces the necessity of getting away from indeterminism and harmonizing the factors of a situation when more than one factor is involved.

"Character reactions as found in the child before the age of reason," which Father Mailloux set between five and seven years, "are rigid reactions," he said. It is when the child is challenged and the rigid reactions seem inadequate that he realizes the initial value of freedom. "He sees the end beyond himself and chooses the means to attain that end," the speaker said.

Pointing out that at that time security is shattered and equilibrium is weakened, the priest claimed that "this anxiety must occur before the final crystallization of mature free activity."

"WE WOULD be unable to reason for ourselves if the theory of the mechanistic psychologists were true," Pere Mailloux stated. Mechanistic psychology teaches that freedom is a myth and that man's activities are not the result of free will but of physical necessity, he declared.

To further stress the fallacy of the mechanistic point of view, the psychologist noted that "when we know as many details as possible about a situation we are able to make the best choice."

Pere Mailloux said that the psychologist's mission is "to pierce the patient's subconscious to give the individual the mere capacity to choose."

THE ROLE OF the priest, according to the speaker, is to invite men to choose the way to the highest good. Creativeness and originality are products of freedom and although the free man is capable of making the right choice he cannot claim impeccability. He will not try to minimize his faults or excuse himself, but rather recognize his errors and strive to correct them, the gathering was told.

The Rev Harold C. Gardiner, S. J., literary editor and book review editor of America will speak Tuesday, Feb. 13. His subject, "The Great Books and the Christian Tradition," promises to bring stimulating and critical evaluations of our reading habits. The Forum is sponsored by the Catholic Courier Journal.

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Text of Cardinal Spellman Statement Condemning Rossellini 'Miracle' Film

Following is the text of a statement by Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, concerning the movie "The Miracle" produced by Roberto Rossellini and banned recently for showing in this country.

FOUR WEEKS ago today, you and I took a pledge. It was the pledge of the Legion of Decency. We pledged to remain away from indecent and immoral films, to unite with those who protest against them and to stay away altogether from places of amusement which show them as a matter of policy.

Today we call upon you to make that pledge effective against a motion picture entitled "The Miracle," which is part of a picture presented under the title "Ways of Love," and against any theatre that is showing it now or may show it henceforth.

Not only do we address this admonition to the 1,250,000 of the Catholics of the Archdiocese of New York but also to the 26,000,000 of our fellow Catholics in these United States of America.

When "The Miracle" opened in New York on Dec. 11 the National Legion of Decency condemned it as a "sacrilegious and blasphemous mockery of Christian religious truth."

When first seen by a member of the Legion of Decency in Venice in 1948, a vigorous protest was made against its further distribution. And previous to that, it was condemned in Rome by the Pontifical Film Commission.

Lastly the showing of "The Miracle" in our city was stopped on Dec. 23 by the Commissioner of Licenses of the City of New York, who condemned it as "a blasphemous affront to a great many of our citizens."

YESTERDAY OUR daily papers announced that a Justice of the Supreme Court of our state had restrained the Commissioner of Licenses from stopping the picture. The judge said that the law demanded this decision. This interpretation makes the State Board of Regents supreme in the licensing of films.

It is indeed a blot upon the escutcheon of the Empire State that no means of appeal to the Board of Regents is available to the people for the correcting of a mistake made by the motion picture division of the State Education Department. And in licensing "The Miracle" that board of censors certainly made a mistake offending and [illegible] of people [illegible] in our community.

The theme of "The Miracle" is the seduction of an simple Italian woman. What is there in this theme to be approved or to condone? The seduction of any about woman, regardless of race is revolting. It is art at its worst. To grow in this story of the seduction of an idiot woman the title "The Miracle," is diabolical deception at its depth. The picture should very properly be entitled "Woman Further Defamed," by Roberto Rossellini.

SINCE THE civil law sustains the showing of such a vile and harmful picture, we, as the guardians of the moral law, must summon you and all people with a sense of decency to refrain from seeing it and supporting the vessel purveyors of such pictures, which are so harmful to morality and the public welfare.

Moreover, if the present law is so weak and inadequate to cope with this desperate situation, then all right-thinking citizens should unite to change and strengthen the Federal and state statutes so as to make it impossible for anyone to profit financially by blasphemy, immorality and sacrilege.

"The Miracle" is a deplorable affront to every Christian. It is a mockery of our faith. We believe in miracles. This picture ridicules that belief. The Production Code of the Moving Picture Industry forbids such ridicule.

This picture blasphemously and sacrilegiously implies a subversion to the very inspired word of God. Satan alone would dare such perversion.

In a secondary way "The Miracle" is a vicious insult to Italian womanhood. It presents the Italian woman as moronic and neurotic and, in matters of religion, fanatical. Only a perverted mind could so misrepresent so noble a race of women.

TO THOSE who perpetrate such a crime as "The Miracle," within the law, all that we can say is: "How long will enormities of decency tear at the heart of America?"

We are a religious nation. The perpetrators of "The Miracle" [illegible] Divine and [illegible] is the [illegible] of this production, [illegible] God [illegible] that the production of racial and religious [illegible] [illegible] Americans [illegible] of Monroe might endure this kind of Liberty.

[illegible] President of the United States [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]