

AIG Auxiliary Lists Banquet

Members of the annual banquet, April 26, were discussed Wednesday, March 14, at a meeting of the AIG auxiliary. The banquet will be held in Club 66.

Members may take guests to the banquet. Mrs. Carol Castelluz will be chairman of refreshments and Mrs. Carrie Anala, co-chairman.

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Armed Forces Mail Call

By THOMAS H. O'CONNOR
We're going to try to give Mail Call again because this week we received actual evidence that the column has been clipped and sent to men and women in service. Our first correspondence came from somewhere in the Pacific. So here we go again.

WORD FROM JAPAN
Private First Class Ruth J. Wakefield, a WAC in Japan has received the Courier Journal and has written her impressions of Army life in that area.

Her home is at 6 Kohl Circle Rochester. She enlisted in the WAC Corps in September 1949 and was stationed at Fort Lee, Virginia until going overseas in December, 1950. She writes:

"Japan is a very beautiful country, filled with gardens, statues, rice paddies and oriental buildings. On off-duty time one can visit shrines, etc. for hours at a time, never tiring of the scenery of the surrounding countryside. The people here are very sweet and so grateful to the Americans for bringing them the prosperity that they are enjoying so much.

"My job is that of Chaplain's Assistant. The Chapel where I work is situated high on a hill overlooking the Pacific coastline and Tokyo Bay. From my office window I can see the famous volcano of Mt. Fuji, still active and very beautiful. This Army chapel is just like a parish church in civilian life. We have regular parishioners, mostly made up of Armed Forces personnel and their families.

"Since I've been here I have run across many people from Rochester and vicinity, many of whom I knew before coming into the service. Every piece of literature from Rochester that is sent to us, we show each other. The kids read your column and it gave us all a good feeling to know that the people are praying so much for world peace. We would like to thank everyone personally for their great moral support, but we can only express our deep gratitude in this letter."

AROUND THE BUCKLE
Priests of Rochester have been writing Lenten prayers for the secular press. Monsignor Benedict Maselli, pastor of St. Lucy's Church in his, said in part: "O Lord, console the oppressed, the afflicted, the soldiers, and keep them all from dangers and keep them from harm."

"Parishioners of St. Pechan's Church in Gates gather on the first Saturdays of the month to offer an hour of prayer for peace of the world. DeSales High School Sodality members recited the Rosary in St. Stephen's Church, Geneva for 'soldiers in Korea.' With His Excellency Bishop Kearney endorsing the movement, members of Rochester Fourth Degree Assembly, Knights of Columbus continued to ask business firms and professional men to close their establishments on Good Friday at least from 12 noon to 3 p.m. More than 90 firms are cooperating. The city is being asked to refrain from shopping on that day. St. Francis Xavier school basketball team won the CVA Grammar School League pennant. St. Carmel team was on top in the CVA High School League. Thronia viewed the Passion Play, 'The Dark Hours' a play presented at Aquinas Institute and were edited by the production. St. John Fisher College building is going up fast and start of the new Baillien Institution is set for September. A gala St. Patrick's Day program was carried out at home opening with Soloman Mass in St. Patrick's Church.

Fr. Guilfoil Answers Editorial Writer Of Corning Paper On 'The Miracle' Film

Corning — An editorial in The Evening Leader, Feb. 28, discussing the banning of the motion picture "The Miracle" was answered by the Rev. Joseph V. Guilfoil, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul's Church in a sermon preached Sunday, March 4.

The sermon as submitted by Father Guilfoil was carried in full by the Leader at the editor's request.

Here is the full text of Father Guilfoil's sermon taking issue with the editorial:

"Before beginning my remarks this morning, I wish to state very explicitly that the subject that I am going to discuss is not a thing that I consider as an example of the studied policy of the Corning Leader, nor is any remark made a personal attack on the writer of the editorial that I am about to discuss. I consider it a manifestation of a studied movement of hate and vilification of the Catholic Church that is taking place in certain quarters of this country today. I haven't the slightest idea who wrote the article nor am I interested in that phase of the matter. It is representative of a certain school of thought led by such master minds as Henry Wallace, Harold Lloyd, Dr. Jerome Nathanson, Bertrand Russell, and others of such character.

"LAST SUNDAY when I was speaking on the Gospel of the day and spoke of the monstrous accusations made against our Divine Saviour of casting out devils by the power of Beelzebub, I spoke of the technique of the Big and Monstrous Lie which today the Communists have thoroughly mastered. I spoke of the cliches, slogans and shibboleths that distort the truth by changing the meanings of the words. For instance, we know today how many crimes are committed in the name of 'democracy' and how the word is distorted from its usual acceptance and significance.

"Little did I realize that on the following night there would be an editorial in the Corning Leader that would manifest the technique of the Big Lie perhaps in a minor degree.

"You have read of the film that was shown in New York, called 'The Miracle'. In New York State movies are licensed by the Motion Picture Division of the State Board of Regents. The division must withhold a license from any film that is obscene, indecent, immoral, inhuman, sacrilegious or of such a character that its exhibition tends to corrupt morals.

"On appeal, the full Board of Regents may grant a license to a film disapproved by the Motion Picture Division. The law doesn't say specifically whether the Regents may cancel a license granted by the Motion Picture Division. It was for the 'Miracle' a film produced by Roberto Rossellini who has as his present wife Ingrid Bergman. It deals with a feeble-minded woman who is seduced by a stranger she thinks is St. Joseph. She bears a child whom she believes was miraculously conceived. The Archbishop of New York denounced 'The Miracle' as blasphemous. Cardinal Spellman appeared in a pastoral letter to his flock that all Catholics boycott it. In their declaration the Board of Regents condemned 'The Miracle' as sacrilegious. Their decision was based on the common Christian heritage of belief as found in the Bible.

"THE BOARD of Regents of the State of New York is composed of gentlemen of the high est integrity, men who would not, I am sure, violate their Christian consciences, men of probity and of good judgment. It is this Board that banned the film for the general public and not the Archbishop of New York. What right has anyone to say that a so-called 'pressure group' swayed the decision of these gentlemen who make up the Board of Regents of the State of New York?"

"Cardinal Spellman, as the chief pastor of his flock in the

diocese of New York, is not driven nor hounded by the hierarchy of the Church. We accept their authority freely and rationally. Whether this writer knows it or not, the Catholic Church is based fundamentally on the use of pure reason, but over and above this we consider supernatural Faith as a gift of God, who gives Grace to the humble and denies it to the conceited of heart.

"Most certainly religion, ideas and ideals cannot be 'mandated.' Religion is fundamentally a thing of the mind and heart. It is impossible for any power on earth, except the one possessing them, to control a man's thoughts, ideas and ideals. I am speaking here this morning on this subject, and any one of you can heartily disagree with me and what can be done about it?"

"You are the sole masters of your thoughts, ideas and ideals. These are purely internal acts of the mind and cannot be controlled by anyone except yourselves. External acts come under the control of the police power of the State, for example — the carrying of pistols, the sale of poisonous drugs, the keeping away of firearms from minors or those with homicidal tendencies. The Catholic Church surely possesses no such police power.

"When I was a boy in high school, two or three times a week, we had chapel exercises. The first part of these exercises consisted in the singing of the hymns of the churches. There is one hymn that I remember well — 'Stand up Stand up for Jesus.' And we all joined in the singing of that rousing old hymn in the profession of that common Christian heritage, Protestant and Catholic alike. I believe that that hymn is still used extensively in the churches today. And moreover, I know that against many of the enemies of God in the world today, there are millions outside the Catholic Church who are ready to stand up with

"They may not believe in the veneration and invocation of the Saints, but I know that they must heap ridicule and scorn upon these so closely united with Christ in His earthly life. If I were a Protestant minister I would publicly denounce this unwarranted insinuation, implication and innuendo that the Protestant people could stomach such an abomination as 'The Miracle.'

Archdiocese of New York was banned in conscience and obnoxious against the awful majesty of God and the sacred person of St. Joseph who was so intimately connected with the Savior of the world during His sojourn here below. Archbishop Spellman, as a free-born citizen, abstracted from his office, has a perfect right to make a personal opinion known on any other American possession of the right under the Constitution of the United States which guarantees to all freedom of speech.

"The writer of the editorial in question seems to be of the opinion that the best propaganda for a film is its condemnation. He says that it is not banned in Italy. Perhaps in Italy the innate Catholic sense of decency



REV. JOSEPH V. GUILFOIL would naturally revolt against this dragging down from heaven a sacred character into the mire of earthly obnoxiousity.

"The writer of the editorial speaks of 'heretical material.' There is no question of heresy here. Heresy is a denial of an article of Faith. It can be formal or material heresy. This poor woman suffering from an illusion according to Catholic moral theology was incapable of committing even a slight venial sin while under this illusion. What is here is the grossest and devilish kind of sacrilege which is defined as the abuse of a sacred person or thing. When the people of this parish stood up last December, after being told that they were being called upon by their own free will and deliberately to take the pledge of the Legion of Decency, there was no mention of heresy. The pledge deals with films that are immoral and that glorify crime or criminality, and with the avoidance of the theatres that show such films as a matter of policy. How any one with a conscience that is affected at all by Christian tradition to any degree would not stand aghast at this prostitution of the sublime and its being joined not merely with the ridiculous but with the mundane depravity is hard to understand.

"Why there should be such a reaction called forth in this

editorial because this simple and understandable action of the Archbishop or the picketing of the theatres by Catholics acting within their rights as American citizens, is difficult to understand and comprehend.

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they think at all his very existence.

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the Catholic people for the rights of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

"Behind the Iron Curtain and even the Bamboo Curtain, Catholic bishops, priests, nuns and laymen are shedding their blood today as witnesses for Christ. The film 'The Miracle' could very well have come from the 'League of the Godless' in Red Russia or one of the satellites.

"Since the writer graciously concedes our right to speak out, if we are sincere, may I let him know that the Catholic Church will never be voiceless, will never be muzzled by the efforts of the enemies of Christianity to stifle her voice. She will ever speak up for the rights of God and against the profanation of His Divine Majesty as represented in such a film as 'The Miracle.'

"Likewise she will guard jealously the dignity of every human being as the child of God. It will not fail, no matter what weary, some and hackneyed cliches and epithets such as 'pressure group' or 'forces of reaction' or 'illiberalism' are used against her by perverse enemies of the Christian profession.

New President
Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — R. Conroy Scoggins attorney for a Houston, Tex., oil firm was elected president of the University of Notre Dame Alumni Association at a meeting here

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Red Mob Attacks Archbishop's House
Munich — (NC) — Communist inspired rousers led a fanatical mob at Regensburg in a demonstration which resulted in the demolition of the residence gate of Archbishop Michael Buchberger, 77-year-old Ordinary of that See, the smashing of windows and the public molestation of several priests in the city.

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by Rev. Richard Tormey for the COURIER-JOURNAL

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