

# Mortal Sin To See 'Baby Doll' Movie

Rochester begins the New Year in sordid company. The definitely dirty movie film "Baby Doll" is scheduled to open at the downtown Paramount theater on New Year's Eve.

Bishop Kearney has issued a strong warning to all Catholics that the movie is a clear occasion of sin and anyone who attends it is guilty of serious sin.

The Legion of Decency viewed the film in late November and gave it a Class C (condemned) rating.

Catholics of the Diocese earlier this month pledged themselves to stay away from such objectionable films.

Time magazine termed the film "possibly the dirtiest American-made motion picture that has ever been legally exhibited."

Several other cities have already taken steps to block its being shown in those areas.

Charges have been made that the Legion of Decency's ban on the movie for Catholics constitutes a threat to American freedom.

The Legion actually is one of the finest proofs of democracy.

As Americans we cherish the right to defend ourselves from any and all forms of tyranny. We instinctively revolt against any attempts to muzzle our press or our pulpits.

Whether we be Catholic, Protestant or Jew, we look to our churches for moral guidance in the all important matter of saving our immortal souls.

Catholic theology is very explicit in its teaching that we are obligated in conscience to protect ourselves from any person, place, or thing that might lead us into sin.

The solemn act of Contrition said by Catholics as they kneel for the Sacrament of Penance includes the explicit sacred promise "to avoid the near occasion of sin."

The current controversial movie "Baby Doll" definitely is one of these "occasions of sin" which must be avoided.

These days we hear a lot about mental health as well as physical health. More important than either of these two is moral health.

When a theater or chain of theaters features a morally degrading program simply for the extra dollars it will make, then all decent-minded, community-spirited citizens are rightly offended and indignantly aroused.

Talk is cheap and corrupt morals can be deplored — but the greater hypocrisy is to condemn the young victims of unscrupulous adults who flaunt such indecency on a city's screens.

When the movie industry stoops to produce such corrupting films as "Baby Doll" it just confirms an already widespread opinion that movie producers and theater operators are more interested in turning a fast buck than they are in the moral life of our nation.

# Day Of Prayer For Peace, Freedom

"What can I do? Even the United Nations can't do anything." With that casual comment, too many dismiss the Christian duty of being concerned for those who suffer persecution.

To those who have faith, the weapon more effective than atomic force is prayer.

The American Bishops have appealed to the Catholics of this country to make Sunday, December 30, a day of prayer for the victims of religious persecution.

Graphic evidence of communist brutality was brought to America by the thousands of refugees who fled here from revolt-wrecked Hungary. Hungarians who asked for faith and freedom were brutally repressed in one of history's most bloody massacres. Soviet troops ruthlessly marched into the enslaved nation, defied U. N. and world wide resentment, and clamped the country in chains within two weeks time.

Poland, traditionally a Catholic country, enjoys a limited relaxation from its Moscow masters, but witnesses describe the hardships and poverty still widespread there.

The litany of other satellite slave states indicates that millions of people still chafe under the Red heel.

The fear of a fusion-fusion war has continued to haunt the world and every skinnish has the seeds — or sparks — which might trigger World War III.

The Christian concept that God still holds the reins of history compels us to fall back on the fact that a man on his knees can actually do more than political experts at conference tables to establish the much-wanted but elusive goal of world peace.

To win this gift from God, all Americans — regardless of church affiliation — have been invited by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to lift a common plea to the throne of God this coming Sunday — "domine nobis pacem — Lord, grant us peace!"

# New Year's Greetings

"Those who revel with the devil can't expect to be happy with God," said one of the sainted bishops of the ancient Church.

New Year's alcoholic parties unfortunately often wreck the peace gained from Christmas confession and Communion.

Certainly Christians with an ounce of sense realize that God will not condemn anyone for having a good time, but they should also realize that excessive drinking at New Year's or at any time of the year is offensive to the God they promised to serve so sincerely.

Very often current customs can be traced to beautiful Christian customs which have been spoiled by a pagan and commercial world.

The traditions of New Year's are a case in point. Our present day observance of exchanging greetings with our friends has its roots in rich Catholic family life. Even to this day in French Canada, children prepare a formal statement of thanks and affection for their parents and wish them God's blessing for the coming year.

The Holland children compose a poem of their New Year resolutions and read the list to their parents before they go to bed.

In America, Catholic parents could help their children gain much-needed respect for parents first by demanding that their children give their parents a very early Christmas "greeting" on New Year's Day. Will have little respect later in the year that their children don't.

Parents could also help their children gain "solicitude" by writing them and placing them at the head of the table — and then directing the children to serve the family or needy friends as a part of their New Year's joy to all.

# JOSEPH BREIG

Red Gets  
Honest

There will be countless byproducts of the Hungarian revolution, but surely one of the most depressing is the statement in which Giuseppe Fusaro, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in Corigliano Calabro, Italy, announced his resignation from the Communist Party.

I know nothing of Mr. Fusaro beyond what was printed in the papers, but from the professional quality of his prose, I deduce that he may have been one of those "intellectuals" whose fantastic blindness to the truth about communism has long reduced realistic men to something resembling despair.

I find in Mr. Fusaro's announcement, also, a clue to the solution of another mystery that has puzzled me, namely: how could a talented person like Guareschi write the Don Camillo stories, as if communism were somehow amusing rather than what it is — a criminal conspiracy against God and man and every decency; a diabolical brew of blasphemy, hatred, cruelty, murder and every fifth.

HOW IS IT that educated persons were impervious to the black bell wickedness and the obscene bestiality of communism, until the Hungarian nation rose against it? How was it possible especially in Italy, where people live in the shadow of the Vatican, whence for a century the Popes have thundered the truth about this satanic movement?

I do not know. I cannot understand, I cannot even imagine, such impenetrable ignorance about the plainest and most horrifying fact of our time. But I invite you to listen to Mr. Fusaro's reasons for resigning from the Communist Party.

If you can hear them without clutching your head and holding on to your sanity with both hands, you are a calmer person than I.

Mr. Fusaro said he was breaking with communism because he now realizes that it is impossible to belong to the Communist Party while maintaining "an honest attitude." In other words, Mr. Fusaro has perceived that communism is a lie, and that communists lie.

THIS IS LIKE discovering, in adult life, that fire is hot, that water flows, that ice is cold and that stone is hard. It is like learning, after much study and soul-searching, that thieves steal, burglars burgle, blasphemers blaspheme, lechers are not pure, liars are untruthful, and murderers murder.

This is the kind of "discovery" that children make at the dawn of reason, but which some liberals are incapable of learning in a lifetime. What kind of never-never land do their minds live in?

Mr. Fusaro knows now that communism is dishonest. And yet the founders and leaders of communism have been shouting to the skies, from the very beginning, that every immorality is right and good as long as it advances communism. That is basic communist dogma.

Let us proceed with Mr. Fusaro's statement:

"I am a citizen who was born and raised in my Italian fatherland, for which I have worn a uniform and fought. I am a Catholic, as my fathers were before me. I feel that I cannot ever again be an accomplice of those who intend to destroy my patriotic feelings, my religion, and above all my freedom."

Do not mistake me; we welcome Mr. Fusaro into the truth. We embrace him; we wish for him every blessing. But in what sort of dream world was he existing, not to have known that communism is the most vicious of all enemies of religion, of patriotism, and of freedom? How could he, how can any one who is not either an utter fool or an unmitigated scoundrel, be so open-minded an accomplice of this monstrous hellishness?

We hail Mr. Fusaro's enlightenment, and we applaud his courage in acting on it. But why, why must millions die in slave camps, why must thousands be tortured to death, why must black and priest die in dungeons, why must Hungarians shed lakes of blood, and why must the world endure decades of agony, before eyes like Mr. Fusaro's at long last are opened?



All Ages and all kinds of people — statesmen, entertainers, soldiers, athletes, came to hear Pope Pius XII during 1956. Especially welcome were the children, one group shown above were sons and daughters of American military personnel in Italy. The Pope climaxed his words of counsel with his blessing.

# Pope Stresses World Peace In 1956 Talks To Thousands

A review of Pope Pius XII's activities during 1956 confirms the reputation he has won for the kaleidoscopic range of his public utterances.

In his annual Christmas message, the Pope stressed again the world's paramount need — peace. He has made peace the dominant theme of most of his pronouncements. But at the same time he has surpassed all other Pontiffs in the variety of other topics on which he continues to write and speak.

Pius XII's activities during the past 12 months point up the fact that no Pope has been seen or heard by so many people from far and near and of every race and condition of life.

The first Pope whose election was broadcast by radio, he has, thanks to this medium, been able to project his voice to millions in every corner of the globe. The first to ride in an airplane — that was before he became Pope — he has lived to see air travel attract increasing numbers of pilgrims to the capital of Roman Catholicism.

Despite his advanced age and his doctors' advice to rest more, Pope Pius continued throughout 1956 the heavy schedule of audiences at which his talks have often been not only of exceptional topical interest but of a homely and deeply perceptive nature.

ALL TYPES and descriptions of visitors have been received at the papal audiences. This year was no exception. Callers included statesmen, politicians, scholars of every kind, educators, movie stars, economists, and newspapermen. Among them were also farmers, housewives, children, steelworkers, soldiers, students, seminarians of every nationality, and athletes.

To all of these groups Pope Pius had special words of encouragement and counsel. To many thanks to his extraordinary linguistic gifts, he was able to talk in their own language.

At his audiences during 1956, the Pope warned gynecologists against artificial insemination, told heart specialists that rest peace of mind through religion can help reduce the toll of heart disease, and urged hospital staffs to keep in mind the spiritual as well as physical needs of the sick.

He assured astronomical scientists that their efforts to explore space were "legitimate before God." He told dietitians, pharmacists and chemists that every vocation has its special spiritual opportunities and challenges. Economists and businessmen heard him defend private property against excessive state socialism.

He counseled employers to respect the dignity of labor, and warned workers against the false lures of Communism.

And he praised American-style supermarkets as a boon to consumers and a means to keep food prices low.

At the beginning of Lent, this year he urged parochial school children in the United States to contribute "pennies and packages" for the poor and hungry children of the world.

The Pope told delegates to the seventh International Congress of Catholic Doctors held in the Netherlands that they may not practice euthanasia, abortion or any other "medical acts which contradict the law of God." Speaking to Italian women gathered at Loreto to honor him on his 80th birthday, he condemned the practice of using women in heavy industry — an obvious reference to Communist countries.

In a message to the peoples of East and West, the Pope referred in deeply moving terms to "the iniquities perpetrated against the beloved people of Hungary" and at the same time condemned "hasty recourse to the use of force in Egypt."

TWO SPECIAL messages were to Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski and Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Poland and Hungary, respectively, whose release from Communist detention spelled out two of the biggest Catholic stories of the year.

POPE PIUS also sent radio messages to national Eucharistic Congresses in the Philippines and Venezuela. In the first he warned against the "forces of sensuality and godless materialism," and in the second he declared that the only hope of peace lies in a true Christian brotherhood among all peoples.

ARE CHILDREN brought into the world because they will be useful — like domestics or chattel, good, healthy, strong workers? We have reasons to worry about our Christian concepts when the birth rate was going lower and lower and some said it was because large families were not "useful" in city dwellings as they were back on the farms.

Are children brought into the world because mothers would be frustrated and lonely without them? Are children brought into the world as future security for old age? But children are to look forward, not backward — that is nature's inexorable law. Parents are principally to give to their children what their parents have given to them.

Here are three of the major reasons why Christian parents have children:

1. EVERY MAN wants to be someone absorbed in an object which surpasses him or her. It is by means of children that men can surpass themselves most easily. Most of us lead dull lives in the course of which we produce nothing of note. Most, however, can accomplish one great work: children. Children are the masterpiece of creation!

The first reason for a child is to collaborate with God who in a sense subordinates His work to that of the husband and wife. God does not create the soul until the parents have prepared the embryo. In having a child they are associated with God in creation and associated with Christ in redemption.

2. CHILDREN MUST be born of a great and beautiful love between husband and wife. It is in the child that the parents reach their complete fusion and unity. Parents have had this child because they love each other. Because this child is the fruit of the love of this man, this woman — not of a test tube or because the child was "planned."

It is, therefore, freakish and unnatural when women allow themselves to become so absorbed in their maternal love that they neglect their husbands. Husbands are not mere instruments by whom children are born — women are not mere "gals," females.

3. CHILDREN ARE brought into the world because they are loved for themselves, not because of what they will contribute to parents. They are loved as they are: bright, dull, healthy, crippled, retarded, beautiful, ugly. Home is the one place every child must feel accepted, welcomed, loved as he is.

Workingmen hear Pope Pius XII caution them about the lures of communism. Italian communists had made heavy inroads in worker's unions there. Recent Soviet brutality in Hungary has changed even Italian Red leaders in their attitude toward benefits of Moscow system and confirmed the Pope's advice that communism provides nothing but poverty.

TV Stars of Italy's version of the \$64,000 Question talk with Pope Pius XII. In audiences to thousands of pilgrims from nearly every country of the world, the Pope asked to meet each pilgrim individually, often talked with them about their personal problems and desires.

# FATHER SHEERIN

Catholic  
Controversies

There is a controversy among Catholics over "The Nun's Story." Kathryn Hulme's book is No. 1 on the best-sell list. Some Catholics would say it deserves to top any list but others would gladly consign it to "the bottom of the barrel." One reviewer will call it "great Catholic novel while another will dismiss it as a depressing tale of a nun who had no vocation.

Such controversies are healthy. There was a lively debate over "Keys of the Kingdom" and "I Leaped Over the Wall." The Catholic public took these controversies in stride without being much perturbed.

He was accustomed to expect differences of opinion on questions on which the Church has taken no official stand.

HE WAS NOT long after Christ ascended into Heaven that the early Christians became involved in controversy. They formed a living unity and hated schism in doctrine but in minor matters, they had their differences of opinion. Some Jewish converts, for instance, wanted to force certain Jewish ritual practices on the Gentile converts. That problem was solved amicably by the Council of Jerusalem in 51 A.D. but other difficulties arose later.

In a spiritual Church, I suppose, there would be no controversies. It would be composed of angels and all the angels would agree on everything under the sun or should I say — over the sun. However, Christ did not do a spiritual Church.

He founded a visible organization of men with finite intelligence.

He promised that His Church would never go astray in essential matters of faith and morals but He never promised they would not go astray or differ from each other on doubtful or non-essential matters. In essence,

They were to be friends even when they had a difference of opinion. For the devil of pride usually lurks underneath uncharity. The man who fancies he is the norm of orthodoxy is usually proud as the devil.

I think it is fortunate that we do have differences of opinion among Catholics at this time. We don't want to enjoy irresponsible freedom in the essential matters of faith and morals but in these other matters, we should take advantage of our freedom. For it seems to be a fixed notion in the American mind that Catholics are not allowed to think. Blanshard may have had some small part in fostering this idea but the notion is bigger than Blanshard.

You will find it in college classrooms, in periodicals, in ordinary conversation. The Pope and the Bishops are said to do our thinking for us. We are said to have no freedom of thought, that the Church has clamped down a straitjacket on our minds.

In view of the common American misconception, I believe it is good to know that Catholics are engaged in controversies. It shows Americans that, outside the truths taught by Christ, we are free. We are not committed to a Party Line.

He founded a visible organization of men with finite intelligence.

He promised that His Church would never go astray in essential matters of faith and morals but He never promised they would not go astray or differ from each other on doubtful or non-essential matters. In essence,

# Making Marriage Click Children Aren't Puppies

By MSGR. IRVING A. DERLANO  
(Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)

Parents today invest thousands of elusive dollars in their fine young boys and just when the time comes to collect the dividends, an extra fine young girl comes along, and though almost a stranger, she lasso the fine young boy and runs off with the interest!

So why have children?

IS IT FOR one's own personal pleasure? So that one has a child and then stops because children make us personal prisoners? DeBiane

A second child? "Yes, one child only could be a child of selfishness," and "the first child must have someone to play and grow up with." A third child? That is the crucial question; that third child begins to be a real burden, out of proportion to the personal pleasure it gives.

Are children brought into the world to be dressed up daintily and to be shown off to be precious little puppies? We have all met the righteous parent who rigorously drills into their children: "Sooner would I see you dead than that you are a disgrace to your Mom and Dad."

God pity the child, whose story recently appeared in the press, an unwed mother, who refused to go home because she was a "disgrace to her family." Not that children should not honor their parents, but must that be the issue, the main factor?

ARE CHILDREN brought into the world because they will be useful — like domestics or chattel, good, healthy, strong workers? We have reasons to worry about our Christian concepts when the birth rate was going lower and lower and some said it was because large families were not "useful" in city dwellings as they were back on the farms.

Are children brought into the world because mothers would be frustrated and lonely without them? Are children brought into the world as future security for old age? But children are to look forward, not backward — that is nature's inexorable law. Parents are principally to give to their children what their parents have given to them.

Here are three of the major reasons why Christian parents have children:

1. EVERY MAN wants to be someone absorbed in an object which surpasses him or her. It is by means of children that men can surpass themselves most easily. Most of us lead dull lives in the course of which we produce nothing of note. Most, however, can accomplish one great work: children. Children are the masterpiece of creation!

The first reason for a child is to collaborate with God who in a sense subordinates His work to that of the husband and wife. God does not create the soul until the parents have prepared the embryo. In having a child they are associated with God in creation and associated with Christ in redemption.

2. CHILDREN MUST be born of a great and beautiful love between husband and wife. It is in the child that the parents reach their complete fusion and unity. Parents have had this child because they love each other. Because this child is the fruit of the love of this man, this woman — not of a test tube or because the child was "planned."

It is, therefore, freakish and unnatural when women allow themselves to become so absorbed in their maternal love that they neglect their husbands. Husbands are not mere instruments by whom children are born — women are not mere "gals," females.

3. CHILDREN ARE brought into the world because they are loved for themselves, not because of what they will contribute to parents. They are loved as they are: bright, dull, healthy, crippled, retarded, beautiful, ugly. Home is the one place every child must feel accepted, welcomed, loved as he is.

Workingmen hear Pope Pius XII caution them about the lures of communism. Italian communists had made heavy inroads in worker's unions there. Recent Soviet brutality in Hungary has changed even Italian Red leaders in their attitude toward benefits of Moscow system and confirmed the Pope's advice that communism provides nothing but poverty.

TV Stars of Italy's version of the \$64,000 Question talk with Pope Pius XII. In audiences to thousands of pilgrims from nearly every country of the world, the Pope asked to meet each pilgrim individually, often talked with them about their personal problems and desires.

ARE CHILDREN brought into the world because they will be useful — like domestics or chattel, good, healthy, strong workers? We have reasons to worry about our Christian concepts when the birth rate was going lower and lower and some said it was because large families were not "useful" in city dwellings as they were back on the farms.

Are children brought into the world because mothers would be frustrated and lonely without them? Are children brought into the world as future security for old age? But children are to look forward, not backward — that is nature's inexorable law. Parents are principally to give to their children what their parents have given to them.

Here are three of the major reasons why Christian parents have children:

1. EVERY MAN wants to be someone absorbed in an object which surpasses him or her. It is by means of children that men can surpass themselves most easily. Most of us lead dull lives in the course of which we produce nothing of note. Most, however, can accomplish one great work: children. Children are the masterpiece of creation!

The first reason for a child is to collaborate with God who in a sense subordinates His work to that of the husband and wife. God does not create the soul until the parents have prepared the embryo. In having a child they are associated with God in creation and associated with Christ in redemption.

2. CHILDREN MUST be born of a great and beautiful love between husband and wife. It is in the child that the parents reach their complete fusion and unity. Parents have had this child because they love each other. Because this child is the fruit of the love of this man, this woman — not of a test tube or because the child was "planned."

It is, therefore, freakish and unnatural when women allow themselves to become so absorbed in their maternal love that they neglect their husbands. Husbands are not mere instruments by whom children are born — women are not mere "gals," females.

3. CHILDREN ARE brought into the world because they are loved for themselves, not because of what they will contribute to parents. They are loved as they are: bright, dull, healthy, crippled, retarded, beautiful, ugly. Home is the one place every child must feel accepted, welcomed, loved as he is.

# The Catholic Courier-Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

Vol. 69, No. 13 Friday, December 28, 1956

MOST REVEREND JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, D.D., President

Published every Friday by the Rochester Catholic Press Association.

HEAD OFFICE: 25 N. 2nd St., Bldg. 2-211, Rochester 4, N. Y.

AUDIENCE OFFICE: 43 Canal Ave., Aurora 3-5515

BRANCH OFFICE: 115 South Ave., Phone 3-0414 or 3-0423

Second-class postage paid at Rochester, N. Y.

As required under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Single copy 10¢; 3 month subscription in U.S., \$2.50; Canada \$3.00; Foreign \$4.00.

Copyright 1956 by The Catholic Courier-Journal, Inc.