

# Pledges Slated On Decency In Motion Pictures

Catholics of the Rochester Diocese and throughout the nation will renew the annual Pledge of the Legion of Decency this Sunday (Dec. 15) in a bid to bolster the Church's "uphill battle to maintain a decent standard of morality on the screen."

THE PLEDGE, which Sunday Mass congregations will recite publicly in the churches, obligates Catholics to patronize only those films approved by the Legion of Decency and to avoid completely those theaters which consistently and as a "matter of policy" present condemned or morally objectionable pictures.

The need for good film entertainment was underscored this week by His Excellency Bishop Kearney in a letter to the parish clergy.

He directed that sermons on Sunday explain the "occasions of sin" risked by those who attend motion pictures which are morally objectionable.

The Bishop stressed that Catholics should recognize "the responsibility of taking the Legion Pledge seriously. It would make mockery of the house of God," he warned. "If the Pledge, taken in His presence, were to become merely an annual ritual or formality."

NEW THIS YEAR in the Legion of Decency's program is its plan to list forthcoming films on a "triple A" basis, in addition to the B and C categories.

All will indicate a film is unobjectionable for all; A2, unobjectionable for adolescents and adults; A3, restricted to adults only.

Legion officials state this "triple A" listing clarifies B rated films, "morally objectionable in part for all," as definitely to be avoided by all, adults as well as youngsters.

Pictures listed with a C rating are completely condemned and attendance at such is declared to be a clear-cut mortal sin.

PARENTS especially have the obligation to control their children's choice of film entertainment.

## PLEDGE OF THE LEGION OF DECENCY

The following Pledge of the Legion of Decency will be renewed Sunday (Dec. 15) by Catholics in all churches of the Rochester Diocese:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

I condemn indecent and immoral motion pictures, and those which glorify crime and criminals.

I promise to do all that I can to strengthen public opinion against the production of indecent and immoral films, and to unite with all who protest against them.

I acknowledge my obligation to form a right conscience about pictures that are dangerous to my moral life.

As a member of the Legion of Decency, I pledge myself to remain away from films, I promise, further, to stay away altogether from places of amusement which show them as a matter of policy.

Children's choice of film entertainment, Bishop Kearney said in his letter. "The poisoning of their souls is much more serious than the poisoning of their bodies," he said.

# Holy Communion Reception Increases Almost Million

Communions in the Rochester Diocese surged to a record high total of over six and a half million during 1957.

This total marks an increase of almost a million more than in 1956.

To keep up with the increasing number of people receiving Holy Communion frequently, many at St. Joseph's Motherhouse and Holy Angels Convent have expanded staffs and installed new equipment to make the altar breads used for Communion.

Factors unanimously agreed that the increase is due to the recent change in the Church's laws which now permit Catholics to receive the Blessed Sacrament after fasting only three hours.

Leading the Diocese in total number of Communions is Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester. Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, Cathedral rector, reports 234,000 Communions distributed in that parish this year, an increase of 47,000 over the previous year.

Next highest is St. Monica's, Rochester, with a 204,470 total, an increase of 44,000.

Monsignor Charles S. Shay, pastor of Holy Rosary Church, Rochester, reported a 20,000 increase there for a total of 160,000. He attributed the increase to "the wonderful new fasting legislation of Pope Pius XII."

Blessed Sacrament parish, Rochester, gave 156,200 Holy Communions, a 46,000 gain.

IN ITHACA, Immaculate Conception Church reported a 49,000 increase in Communions for a total of 140,000.

The two Geneva churches, St. Francis de Sales and St. Stephen's counted a combined total of 171,425 Communions in that city.

St. Patrick's, Elmira, had 91,720 Communions.

St. John's, Greece, counted 30,000 for a gain of nearly 40,000. St. Charles - Portomoro, Greece, 33,020 Communions.

St. James, Irondequoit, 76,200 Communions; St. Thomas, 85,500.

Every parish queried had the same story, "Remarkable increase."

Monsignor Thomas F. Connors of Blessed Sacrament parish cited the "marked increase in Communions at later Masses on Sunday" and the "large numbers at daily Mass and daily Communion."

St. John The Evangelist Church, Humboldt St., gained 26,000 for a total of 119,000.

Monsignor Maynard Cornell of St. Margaret Mary parish also agreed that the new fast laws are a "major factor" to explain the increased number of Communions. He reports a total of 114,000, an increase of 30,000.

MOST CATHOLIC parishes and institutions obtain altar breads to be consecrated during Mass for Holy Communion from either the St. Joseph's Motherhouse, Pittsford, or from Holy Angels Convent, Winton Rd., Irondequoit.

Some parishes, such as St. Alphonsus, Auburn, prepare their own breads. St. Alphonsus total this year was 142,000.

St. Joseph's nuns filled orders from 133 parishes totalling 5,046,000 altar breads, a 583,000 gain over last year.

Holy Angels Convent nuns sent out 1,516,907 breads, over 286,000 more than in 1956.

At Holy Angels, a new baking iron had to be installed and 2 new cutting machines. Two nuns are kept busy full time and additional nuns have to step in to help at Christmas, Lent and Easter seasons.

## University Lists Thousand Catholics

Los Angeles—(NC)—Catholicism is the leading religious nonaffiliation represented at the University of Southern California.

Of the university's 24,000 and part-time students, 1,000 are Catholics, according to a survey of 11 religious groups. They were listed by the university in number 10. Catholics are the largest group, followed by Protestants, 1,000, and Jews, 1,000.

# Pope Names New Bishops To Dioceses

Washington—(NC)—Pope Pius XII has made the following episcopal appointments in the United States.

Mgr. Howard J. Carroll, a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh who has been General Secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference since 1937 has been appointed Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown, Penna.

Bishop Clarence G. Isserman, formerly Auxiliary to Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati, has been named Bishop of Columbus.

Mgr. Victor J. Reed, rector of Holy Family Co-Cathedral, Tulsa, Okla., has been named Titular Bishop of Irtisa and Auxiliary to Bishop Eugene J. McGuinness of Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

BENIGNELET Howard Carroll, a cousin living in Rochester, Kathleen, Aloise and Dorothea Carroll reside at 84 Lattimore Rd. They are daughters of Thomas Carroll a brother of Bishop Carroll's father William.

Children of another brother, John Carroll, include Rochesterians: Mrs. Jack Donnelly, 386 Marshall Rd., Vincent Carroll, Lake Ave., and Franklin Carroll, 88 Dalton Rd.

Mrs. John Carroll, sister-in-law of the new bishop, lives with the Donnelly's on Marshall Rd.

He is one of three sons, all of whom became priests. A brother, the Most Rev. Coleman F. Carroll, is Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh. Another brother, the late Msgr. Walter S. Carroll, was attached to the Papal Secretariate of State in Vatican City at the time of his death in 1950.



Austin, Minn.—(NC)—Farms air around here was shattered as three teenagers from Pacell High School, launched a "mousenik," 1,642 feet into the air. The trio, Leonard Gerner, Gary Solyst, and Richard King with Sr. M. Duns Scotus, moderator of the Austin Rocket Society, and chemistry-physicist teacher at Pacell High, launched a 4-foot rocket, which carried a live mouse as passenger.

# Nun, Pupils Beat Vanguard Into Space, Launch 'Mousenik' Rocket 1,642 Feet

Austin, Minn.—(RNS)—A small group of high school boys, guided by a nun, are blazing sputnik-like trails in the skies over this southern Minnesota city.

The youths, 14 to 17 years of age, are members of the newly-organized Austin Rocket Society.

In the past year and a half they have launched about 110 rockets of varying sizes. About 30 of them actually got off the ground.

But the most recent launching, dubbed "Mousenik," was a dazzling success. Carrying a mouse as a passenger the rocket soared 1,642 feet into the sky and attained speeds of up to 221 miles an hour.

Its fuel spent, the 4-foot-10-inch-high rocket plunged to earth, almost completely burying itself in the ground. The mouse, confined in a rubber-padded container, was dead when the boys pulled the stainless steel sleeve from the ground.

Sister Mary Duns Scotus, adviser to the society, says the boys are now at work on a parachute attachment that will permit animal passengers to return alive from future rocket trips.

A SECOND "Mousenik" flight is scheduled for the latter part of this month.

The nun, who teaches chemistry and physics at Pacell High School here, said she became adviser to the society as the result of the avid interest of three of her pupils in rocketry. The youths, leaders of the society, are Richard King and Paul Gerner, seniors, and Gary Solyst, sophomore.

"In order to help them I did some research in rocketry myself," Sister Duns Scotus recalled.

SHE EXPERIMENTED with fuels—in the physics laboratory and came up with a zinc dust and sulphur combination that has paid off in excellent results.

The flights are made from a vertical launching platform ten feet high on a farm near here. The rockets are ignited by a battery-operated pushbutton system some distance from the platform.

—Enthusiastic over the inter-

est and technical know-how shown by the young rocketeers Sister Duns Scotus regards the experiments as extremely valuable in preparing the boys for future work in the field of science.

"The need for scientists has been dramatically demonstrated in recent months," she said, "and this rocket work is bound to further their careers in the future."

"Not only are the boys getting a good technical knowledge but are learning the importance of safety and how to work together."

# Michigan Coach Tells How To Beat Notre Dame

Michigan State's football coach Duffy Daugherty told parents, "Don't send your son to college to get character training on a football team. Character training is a job for the home and church to do. If a boy isn't disciplined by the time he's ready for college, we can't change him by putting him into a football uniform."



DUFFY DAUGHERTY will be on the side that blocks the hardest and runs the best. Michigan State won 34 to 6.

The Spartan coach, rumored going to Texas A & M, was in Rochester Tuesday night to speak to the Kodak Park Foremen's Club.

He said he humorously warned the Michigan State team before facing Notre Dame, "You'll be fighting against a lot of prayers today, but I think God

# Murderer Draws Picture Before His Execution

Walla Walla, Wash.—(RNS)—Harvey J. Collins, 31, hanged in the State Penitentiary here for murder, drew a picture of the Virgin Mary for Bishop Bernard J. Topel of Spokane just before execution.

The bishop had visited Collins in prison several times and also had written to him.

Accompanying the drawing was a note that ended: "Your Excellency, I shall pray for you always. And I shall see you again in Heaven."

Collins became deeply religious in his last few weeks of life, Bishop Topel said.

"He was sure he would save his soul on the gallows and he would lose it if he were set free," the prelate stated. "Then, too, Harvey wanted to offer his life in reparation for his sins, for the prisoners and those he had wronged."

The prisoner, convicted of three murders, gave up smoking three days before the hanging, according to the Rev. George McCabe, chaplain at the prison. "It was a small sacrifice in a way," Father McCabe said, "but a token offering for the big sacrifice to come."

The chaplain, who anointed Collins after the execution, said he felt that "Harvey, like the Good Thief, had reached the only goal worth living, fighting and dying for—union with Our Blessed Lord and His most holy Mother!"

BE SURE and bring the kiddies to see SANTA in life size and motion in the window of BLANK CHARD FLOREST—88 LAKE AVE. Open daily until 9 P.M. Free parking on premises.—Adv.

Radio and Television: Day Terms: William S. Thomas Jewelers, 218 Main St. West.—Adv.



HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL SPELLMAN 'The Divine Code of Jesus Christ'

# Cardinal Denounces 'Labor Racketeers' Cites Letter Received From Teamster's Wife

New York—(RNS)—Cardinal Spellman issued a scathing attack here against labor racketeers. He urged that the "overlords of crime" be removed from power immediately.

Speaking at the Solemn Mass, Sunday, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Archbishop of New York charged that a segment of the country has fallen "under the ruthless domination of greedy, godless gangsters and murderers—mobsters whose aim is to force labor and management alike to become twin slaves of the underworld."

The Cardinal cited the close association of some union leaders with known criminals, the creation of "dummy locals," the "rigging" of elections, extortion, acid-throwing, graft and the misuse of union funds.

"These blatant violations of the trust of their fellow workers make all of us who are friends of labor feel shame and indignation," he said.

But he warned that "we must do more than be shocked or feel morally aggrieved."

"We must act and while there is still time remove from power unscrupulous leaders and their underworld hirelings," Cardinal Spellman said. "It is a tragic, almost unbelievable fact that these 'overlords of crime' have dared blueprint plans with the avowed purpose of dividing their underworld empire, thus imperiling the very security of America's family life!"

In this connection he said that alarm for their families' safety prevents many union members from telling what they know.

CARDINAL SPELLMAN read a letter sent to him by the wife of a member of the Teamsters Union describing "the horror and thievery, the strong-arm methods, yes, even murder, connected with gangster-ruled unions today."

The woman expressed "fear for my children's future" and declared that "most of the men are afraid to talk." She said she was taking the liberty of writing the cardinal "because I feel that, as the head of the Catholic Church here in New York, you are just about the only one who can do anything to assist us."

CARDINAL SPELLMAN observed that he was departing shortly for his annual Christmas tour of American military bases abroad. He said that servicemen returning from overseas expected to find America safe from "the torments and dangers of dictators where they and their children may live and work and plan their futures in full freedom in the true-American way."

"But our soldiers," he said, "if they returned home today would find themselves facing a very un-American way of life prevailing in some fields where they might seek to make a living as once again they become a part of our nation's civilian life.

"They would find that a segment of their blessed country had fallen under the ruthless domination of greedy, godless gangsters and murderers."

The Cardinal said that labor leaders had informed him that members could be safeguarded if members would work on the AFL-CIO Code of Ethical Practices "which commits them to the concept that free democratic trade unionism must be clean, honest and unionist."

"In agreement with this authoritative formula," he told, "I am confident that all American unions can be freed from corruption and the fear and many of gangsterism if each member of every union strives, day by day, faithfully to follow centuries-proven unfolding principles—the Divine Code of Jesus Christ!"



# They All Came To Bethlehem...

THE SHEPHERDS By MONSIGNOR PATRICK J. FLYNN

THE SHEPHERDS who tended their flocks in the fields outside Bethlehem were not "the nicest kind of people" nor even "the right kind of people."

That is why there is comedy, divine comedy in fact, in the Christmas story. The shepherds, despised by all their social betters, were the first to adore the new born Christ.

Only God with His divine sense of humor could have made things happen the way they did at Bethlehem. Only God could have seen the humor of telling lowly shepherds how to find the Son of God in a cave. By telling the secret of Bethlehem to the shepherds before anyone else God played a joke on spiritual snobbery everywhere and rebuked snobs for all time.

THE SHEPHERDS were rough nomads living with their flocks of sheep and goats in the wastelands between Bethlehem and the Judean Desert. Social snobbery branded these herdsmen as outcasts, and almost outlaws.

Admittedly the shepherds were a dirty and unkempt lot. Their long vigils over their flocks, their life in the open made them indifferent to dirt. They had no time for falders, no interest in personal grooming.

All this made the shepherds the object of scorn and loathing to the Pharisees, those religious leaders who scrupulously insisted on ritualistic clean-

## ADVENT READING

This is the third of four articles on the story of Bethlehem offered to our readers during Advent.

liness and much washing of hands.

The shepherds were worried about more serious things, a lion preying on their sheep or a lost lamb. As for water, the shepherds were content to find enough for their flocks and themselves to drink.

Social prejudice against the shepherds was more than a matter of dirt and bad manners. They were also looked upon as heaves and rascals. The shepherds, according to popular charges against them, were not above stealing anything they could lay their hands on.

Even the learned rabbis openly warned parents not to let their sons become shepherds. They were considered the same as thieves. Perhaps some of them were.

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Members of Mercy High School under direction of Sister Mary Margaret, R.S.M., will play the Mass... The familiar story of Christmas, the census decree, and the journey of Joseph and Mary... collected. Another belief supported by the facts.