Legion Head Tells Film Rating System

New York — (NC) — All films rated morally unobjectionable for adults under the old classification system of the National Legion of Decency have been placed in the Legion's new A-2 classification, morally unobjectionable for adults and adolescents.

This was announced by Monsignor Thomas F. Little, executive secretary of the organization, in a memorandum distributed to the Legion's diocesan directors.

MONSIGNOR LITTLE noted that there had been some confusion over classification of films rated morally unobjectionable for adults (A-2) under the Legion's old system. He said that some of the old A-2 films were being listed by Catholic publications in the Legion's new A-3 classification, which is also designated as morally unobjectionable for adults.

However, Monsignor Little said, such films are to be placed in the new A-2 classification — morally unobjectionable for adults and adolescents. "It can be safely said," he stated, "that the vast majority of the films which had been previously rated A-2, for adults, were also in fact acceptable for adolescents. If there be some exceptions to this rule, they are minimal in number and do not justify the morally impossible task of re-evaluating all the films reviewed and classified by the Legion since 1936."

UNDER THE new classification system of the National Legion of Decency, instituted on December 12, there are five film classifications:

A-1, morally unobjectionable for general patronage; A-2, morally unobjectionable for adults and adolescents; A-3, morally unobjectionable for adults; B, morally objectionable in part for all; and C, condemned.

The Legion has announced that there will be no re-evaluation of films previously classified.

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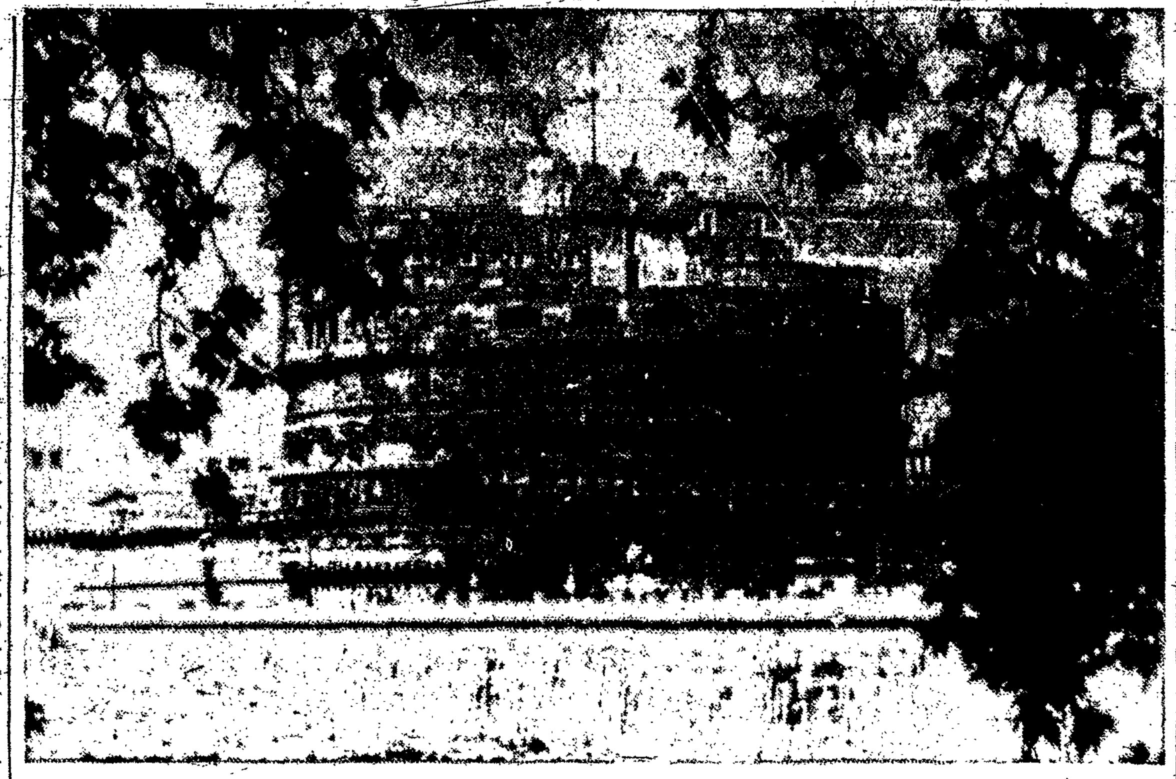

FIRST FILMINGS of St. Peter's Tomb under St. Peter's Basilica and scenes of the Castel San Angelo (shown above) will be seen on WROC-TV, Channel 5 in Rochester in this Sunday's presentation of "Rome Eternal." The four part series will be aired by Channel 5 from 1:30 to 2 p.m. on Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26.

WHAM To Carry Solemn Mass From Holy Family

Solemn High Mass will be broadcast from Holy Family Church, Rochester, over Radio Station WHAM, 1180, on Sunday, Jan. 5 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. The Rev. Richard Tormey, chaplain at Our Lady of Mercy High School, will be commentator.

Celebrant of the Mass will be the Rev. George J. Schmitt, pastor at Holy Family. The Rev. Joseph F. Reinhart will be deacon and the Rev. Thomas J. Kuchman, subdeacon.

REV. ELMER J. SCHMIDT

The sermon will be preached by the Rev. Elmer J. Schmidt, assistant pastor.

The Holy Family Choir, under the direction of William Metzger, will sing. Karl Faber will be at the organ.

Father Schmitt invites all the shut-ins of the area to join him with the people of the parish for the broadcast.

Network Show To Salute St. Bonaventure University

The Rev. Malachy A. Wall, O.F.M., director of Public Relations at St. Bonaventure University will represent the University on Don McNeil's Breakfast Club. The network radio show originates in Chicago and will be heard in Rochester on Wednesday, Jan. 8 over Station WVET, 1280, from 9 to 10 a.m.

Part of the broadcast will be a tribute to the centennial of the Franciscan institution. Featured will be the university's marching song, "The Brown and White."

Also included will be a short interview with Father Malachy about the development and growth of St. Bonaventure University during its 100 years of service in the field of higher education.

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Denver Protestants Oppose Bingo Bid

Denver —(RNS)— The Denver Area Council of Churches voted to fight a proposed amendment to the Colorado state constitution that would legalize games of chance sponsored by religious and fraternal groups.

Gambling in all forms, except pari-mutuel betting at specified racetracks, is prohibited by the Colorado constitution. Last January, law enforcement officials cracked down on church bazaars, church-sponsored bingo games and raffles by religious and fraternal organizations.

Several members of the legislature have announced they would sponsor a constitutional amendment to permit games of chance if the proceeds are to be used for charitable purposes. The proposed amendment would license churches and fraternal organizations for such events.

The proposal will come up when when the state legislature reconvenes in January.

Theatre Guide

Downtown Rochester

PARAMOUNT
The Enemy Below A-1
Plunder Road A-1

PALACE
Sayonara A-2
(Unobjectionable for Adults and Adolescents)

LOEW'S
Les Girls B
(Objectionable)
The Hired Gun A-1

REGENT
The Sad Sack A-1
Raiders of Old California A-1

CINEMA
Perri A-1

LITTLE
How to Murder a Rich Uncle A-1

Church Center Opens At Michigan State

East Lansing, Mich.— (NC) — The new St. John Church and Catholic Student Center here will be dedicated January 12, by Bishop Joseph A. Albers of Lansing.

The new edifice will provide complete parish life for the 4,000 Catholic students attending Michigan State University. Located a block from the campus, it also will provide for the spiritual life of the nearly 800 wives of Catholic married students.

The $600,000.00 structure was financed by the joint effort of the Lansing Diocesan Development Fund, and students, parents, alumni, and friends of the university.

Jesuit Greets Football Star

Dallas, Texas — (NC) — Jesuit Father Richard Gaul had a special reason for turning out to greet the Naval Academy football squad which played Rice Institute in the Cotton Bowl here on New Year's Day.

Father Gaul, of Jesuit High School here, is the priest who baptized Tom Forrestal, Navy's star quarterback, back in November, 1936. Forrestal was one of first four Middies to arrive for the annual bowl contest.

Mary Magdalen

A Case Of Mistaken Identity

By FATHER FRANCIS L. FILAS, S.J.

MARY MAGDALEN was not a reformed sinner. She did not wash the feet of Jesus with her tears nor wipe them with her hair.

The woman popularly called "Mary Magdalen" is in all likelihood a composite of three different women mentioned in the Gospels:

(1) an anonymous penitent sinner;

(2) Mary from Bethany, who was the sister of Martha and Lazarus;

(3) Mary from Magdala (probably a town in ancient Galilee), who was with Jesus on Calvary and after his resurrection.

Such is the age-old opinion followed by the majority of Bible scholars despite the popular views which persist in identifying these three women as one.

Our English language has adopted the identification, too — a "magdalen" is defined in the dictionary as "a reformed prostitute."

HOW DID this confusion originate? Can the question ever be definitely settled?

Different answers have been given in the past, but they all generally are reduced to the two possible answers: either the anonymous woman and Mary Magdalen and Mary of Bethany are one person with different names, or these are three different women.

Why were these three thought to be one and the same person?

The 7th chapter of Luke's gospel tells of "a woman that was in the city, a sinner, who began to wash his feet with her tears and wipe them with her hair," while Jesus was attending a banquet in the home of Simon the Pharisee.

Luke's 8th chapter mentions "Mary who is called Magdalen, out of whom seven devils were gone forth." Would this not indicate she was the great sinner?

John's 11th chapter tells of Lazarus of Bethany, "of the town of Mary and of Martha her sister. And Mary was the one that anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair."

There in brief you have most of the reasons for identity.

But look now at the replies given by the Bible experts, and see if you still think Magdalen was the sinner!

FIRST OF ALL, "seven devils" is a biblical way of saying that Mary Magdalen had been possessed by evil spirits in a very tenacious way, from which Jesus freed her. The wording by no means indicates that such a person is a great sinner.

Other women in the Gospels are described as having had devils possessing them, but these women are never considered as sinners.

LUKE SPEAKS of the anonymous penitent sinner in his 7th chapter. His 8th chapter opens a completely new block of material, and Mary Magdalen is spoken of as if for the first time, as one being introduced to the narrative.

How would Magdalen be the sinner, if after having been described at great length, in a few sentences later she is a new, strange character in the story?

It's even harder to tie in either the anoymous penitent or Mary Magdalen with Mary of Bethany. Bethany is in the south of Palestine, a good 100 miles south of the city of Capharnaum, where the sinner broke in on Jesus' banquet.

As for "Mary from Magdala," most experts think that Magdala was a town on the Lake of Galilee, also in the north and equally far from Bethany.

THEY AGREE that confusion could occur at first sight, because Mary of Bethany also anointed Jesus at a banquet, and this banquet also was in the house of a man named Simon — but Simon is a relatively common name in the Bible, and this man was called Simon the Leper, not Simon the Pharisee.

The time when his banquet occurred was some six days before Jesus died. Yet the banquet given in the north in Galilee by Simon the Pharisee (which the sinful woman interrupted) had happened at least a year earlier.

Mary of Bethany came from a good family. She and her sister Martha and their brother Lazarus had been close friends of Jesus.

At "her" banquet given by Simon the Leper, she shed no tears over Jesus; she stayed until the end of the meal.

But the anonymous penitent woman was known as a public sinner in the city. At the banquet she wept for her sins, and did not stay as part of the banquet party.

Thus, John's 11th chapter describing the anointing of Jesus by a "Mary" refers to a different event at a different time involving a different person than the anonymous sinner.

THE CONFUSION in identifying these three women is actually an instance of using the mathematical statement, "Two things equal to a third thing are equal to each other."

In this case, Mary of Bethany is supposed to be another name for Mary Magdalen.

The banquet at the house of Simon the Pharisee is supposed to be the same as the one with Simon the Leper.

Because one woman — the sinner — weeps when she anoints Jesus with perfume as a sign of her repentance, this is thought to be the same as when another woman — Mary of Bethany - - anoints Jesus as a sign of honor to him.

The devil's bodily influence on one person — Mary Magdalen — is thought to mean she was the devil's slave in sin.

Of course this is a short summary of the long arguments and many more details that could be given.

Whole books have been composed on the subject. But you can see now why many experts think it is an injustice to Mary Magdalen to call her a sinner.

More than fifty years ago, as a German writer put it, "After her death Mary Magdalen, the faithful follower of the Lord, met with a double misfortune.

First she was robbed of her good reputation, being accused of sins which she never committed. Then she was deprived of her individual personality, since she and two other women in the Gospel story are taken for one person."

Whose side are you on?

This article by a well-known writer on Scriptural personages is reprinted from Columbia, national publication of the Knights of Columbus.

Legion of Decency Listings

CLASS A, Section 1—Unobjectionable for General Patronage

Abominable Showman, Abductors, Across The Bridge, Admirable Crichton, All At Sea, All Mine To Give, Alligator Named Daisy, Apache Warrior, April Love, Around the World in 80 Days, Beginning of The End, Bernadine, Black Scorpion, Bridge on the River Kwai, Chasing the Sun, Courage of Black Beauty, Decision Against Time, Deep Six, Deerslayer, Destination 60,000, Duel at Apache Wells, Enemy Below, Escapade in Japan, Face in the Night, Girl Most Likely, Gentle Touch, Giant Claw, God Is My Partner, Ghost Divers, Gun Glory, Gunsight Ridge, Hell Canyon Outlaws, Hired Gun, How to Murder a Rich Uncle, Invisible Boy, It's Great To Be Young, Jacqueline, Jamboree, James Dean Story, Joe Dakota, Johnny Tremain, King And I, The, Last Stage Coach West, Monolith Monsters, Night Passage, Omar Khayyam, Pawnee, Perri, Plunder Road, Sad Sack, Persuader, Search For Paradise, Ride Out For Revenge, Slim Carter, Spanish Affair, Rockabilley Baby, Spook Chasers, Stopover Tokyo, Story of Mankind, This Is Russia, That Night, Tin Star, Torero, Town Like Alice, 20 Million Miles To Earth, Under Fire, World Was His Jury, Zero-Hour

CLASS A, Section 2 — Unobjectionable for Adults and Adolescents

Affair to Remember, Amazing Colossal Man, Black Tent, Careless Years, Cast a Dark Shadow, Chicago Confidential, Copper Sky, Dalton Girls, Death in Small Doses, Doctor at Large, Escapade, Flood Tide, Fort Bowie, Forty Guns, From Hell It Came, Fuzzy Pink Nightgown, Green Eyed Blond, Gun Fever, Guns Don't Argue, Hard Man, Hatful of Rain, Hear Me Good, Helen Morgan Story, Hell on Devil's Island, Hunchback of Notre Dame, Interlude, Johnny Trouble, Journey to Freedom, Killer on the Wall, Land Unknown, Legend of the Lost, My Man Godfrey, Naked in the Sun, No Down Payment, Oklahoma Woman, Parson & the Outlaw, Paths of Glory, Quantez, Quiet American, Raintree County, Restless Breed, Ride A Violent Mile, Rock All Night, Saint Joan, Sayonara, Sea Wife, Operation Madball, She Creature, She Played With Fire, Sinner, Slaughter on Tenth Avenue, So Lovely—So Deadly, Stakeout on Dope Street, Taming Sutton's Gal, Tiajuana Story, Time Limit, Tip On a Dead Jockey, 3:10 To Yuma, Triple Deception, Trooper Hook, Unearthly, Unholy Wife, Unknown Terror, Violators, Weapon, Wink of An Eye, Witness for the Prosecution, Woman in a Dressing Gown, Young and Dangerous

CLASS A, Section 3—Unobectionable in Part

Cabiria, Bonjour Tristesse, Darby's Rangers, Gervaise, Wild Is the Wind, Time Without Pity, Peyton Place

CLASS A, Section 3—Unobjectionable for Adults

18 & Anxious, Action of the Tiger, Affair in Havana, As Long As They're Happy, Baby Face Nelson, Back From The Dead, Band Of Angels, Bayou, Black Patch, Blonde in Bondage, Bop Girl Goes Calypso, Checkpoint, Decision at Sundown, Deep Adventure, Devil's General, Devil's Hairpin, Disembodied, Domino Kid, Don't Go Near The Water, Dragstrip Girl, Escape From San Quentin, Every Second Counts, Fernandel the Dressmaker, Farewell To Arms, Flesh and the Spur, Golden Virgin, Girls in Prison, Gunbattle at Monterey, Hell Bound, House of Numbers, Invasion of the Saucer Men, I Was A Teenage Werewolf, Island in the Sun, Island Woman, Jailhouse Rock, Jeanne Eagles, Jet Pilot, Joker Is Wild, Kiss Them For Me, Layfayette Escadrille, Les Girls, Long Haul, Last Lagoon, Love in the Afternoon, Lovers' Nest, Love Slaves of the Amazon, Loving You, Man in the Shadow, Man of a Thousand Faces, Man on Fire, Man On The Prowl, Mister Rock and Roll, Monkey on my Back, My Gun Is Quick, Naked Paradise, Pajama Game, Portland Expose, Panama Sal, Pal Joey, Pride and the Passion, Short Cut To Hell, Stowaway Girl, Sun Also Rises, Sweet Smell of Success, Tarnished Angels, Teenage Doll, Three Faces of Eve, Until They Sail, Valerie, Value For Money, Wayward Girl, Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter, Woman of The River

CLASS C — Condemned

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