

# Miracle Leads Actor To Faith

Paris — (RNS) — British actor Alec Guinness, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in the New Year's Honors list was converted to Roman Catholicism in 1956 after the seemingly miraculous cure of his son Matthew, a polio victim, according to the Paris weekly, France-Dimanche.

The magazine said the 15-year-old boy was able to get up and walk six months after his father visited the Catholic church of St. Lawrence in Petersfield, England, and prayed for his son.

The star of the box-office hit, "The Bridge on the River Kwai," vowed that if his son was cured he would enter the Catholic Church. On April 2, 1956, the 42-year-old actor received his First Communion at St. Lawrence's.

Matthew had been paralyzed since the age of five, when he contracted polio. His father had consulted doctors all over the world, but none had been able to do anything for the boy. While working on the film "Coriolan," Sir Alec one day entered the Petersfield church to ask God's help.

Since his son's cure, which he believes to be a miracle, Sir Alec has attended church every day, the Paris publication stated. Sir Alec Guinness was the last visitor received in audience by Pope Pius XII before his death.

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## Theatre Guide

Downtown Rochester

**PALACE**  
Inn of the Sixth Happiness A-1 (Unobjectionable)

**CINEMA**

**TONKS** A-1

**PARAMOUNT**  
Sheriff of Fractured Law A-2 (Unobjectionable for adults and adolescents)

**LOEWS**  
Some Came Running (Objectionable) B

**FINE ARTS**  
The Light Across the Street C (Condemned)

**CURRENT PLAYS**

**L'Ill Abner** Partly Objectionable Romanoff and Juliet

**Naughty Marietta** For Adults

**Two Rochester Gentlemen, the Little and the Capital** more than one occasion during the past year shown movies rated as Class C (Condemned) by the Legion of Decency. Catholics are reminded of the Legion pledge by which they promise to stay away from theaters showing condemned films as a matter of policy.

**Ploughing Monk**

**Elected Abbot**

**Dublin** — (RNS) — Father Keven O'Farrell, O. Cist., was ploughing on the farm of the Cistercian Abbey in Roscrea, County Tipperary, when news was brought to him that he had been elected Abbot of the Dame Abbey in Tharwatara, Victoria, Australia. The new abbot is 39.

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## Boys Sing For Pontiff

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII listens as students of the minor seminary of the Rome diocese sing ancient Gregorian chants here on the Feast of the Epiphany. Seated next to the Pope are Frederico Cardinal Teleschini, Archbishop of St. Peter's Basilica (extreme left), and Msgr. Enrico Bante, the Papal Master of Ceremonies (first from right after Pope).

## Watching The Screen

# Guilty Or Not Guilty?

By RAY SMITH

"I WANT TO LIVE" comes to Rochester's Loew's Theater next week and brings to the screen a story that divided California into two camps in 1954-55.

It may well be that truth is stranger than fiction but this reviewer will not vouch for the

truth and nothing but the truth in this morbidly dramatic film for the real truth of this story is still under debate.

Just last month the Los Angeles Police Department bitterly denounced this movie as a film of "baiting and propaganda." The Deputy District Attorney of the same city labeled the picture as an obvious attempt to influence public opinion against capital punishment.

Hollywood fights back shouting that "I Want To Live" is not a story sprung from an author's vivid imagination nor is it fiction, but fact with truth as its added dimension.

Not having a degree in law, this reviewer will not help regulate the controversy that has surrounded the case for over five years. Adults can form their own opinions, as this is strictly ADULT fare.

This 120 minute exercise in tension tells the story of Barbara Graham, her trial for the Monahan murder, her conviction on circumstantial evidence and gas chamber execution. The story unfolds from the viewpoint of San Francisco reporter Edward Montgomery (played well by Simon Oakland) who first is against "Babe" and then befriends her right up to the grim end.

Susan Hayward plays the tough, hardboiled, fast, crude, scold Barbara Graham. Miss Hayward's acting attains an all-time high and her portrayal should again see her nominated for an Academy Award as the year's best actress.

The film's horrifying power is an intimate impression of how it feels to wait for death with the gas chamber next door. The film is quite depressing and morbid. Adults, like this type, will sit it up, but, please, don't let children or teenagers even taste it. There was only one Barbara Graham. Let's have no more.

"THE SHERIFF OF Fractured Law" brings to the Paramount Theater, Rochester, a mild, miffquost British gentleman

**Pontiff Receives 'Craziest' Band**

Vatican City — (RNS) — Members of a jazz band reputed to be the "craziest" in Italy were received in audience by Pope John XXIII. The genial, 71-year-old Pontiff chatted with the group and gave them his apostolic blessing, but did not ask them to play.

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## Movie Stars Slate Mass

New York — (NC) — Father Robert I. Gannon, S.J., former president of Fordham University, will be a featured speaker on January 25 at the ninth annual Communion breakfast for Catholics in the motion picture industry.

The breakfast will be held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel after a Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Also scheduled to speak is Cyril Ritchard, stage and screen star.

**Holy Redeemer Children Saluted**

A salute to the Angel Choir of Holy Redeemer Church "for its fine singing during last Sunday's WEAM broadcast of the Mass from the Hudson Ave. Church," was given in Harold A. Nichols column in the Democrat and Chronicle, Sunday, Jan. 11.

"In addition to Latin and English music during the service," the radio and television columnist wrote, "the 75 grade-age children closed the hour's program with carols in five languages. It was a splendid achievement for a group of youngsters."

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