

King of Kings Gigantic Fraud

New York — (RNS) — The multimillion dollar motion picture, "King of Kings," dealing with the life of Christ, which had its world premiere in New York, was scored by a prominent Roman Catholic film critic here as the latest example of the "gigantic fraud" perpetrated by Hollywood on the movie-going public.

Writing in America, national Catholic weekly to which she contributes a regular film column, Moira Walsh said the Hollywood fraud consists in persuading people that its biblical epics have "substantial religious, or at least edifying qualities."

She complained that the "King of Kings" contains "crucial falsifications" of scripture and "while Christ is there in His physical presence... His spirit is absent."

"There is," she said, "not the slightest possibility that anyone will derive from the film any meaningful insight into what Christ's life and sufferings signify for us."

One of the "shortcomings of the gospel according to Hollywood," Miss Walsh said, "is the habit of watering down the Bible in our pluralistic society so that it gives the least possible offense to the religious sensibilities of all shades of believers and unbelievers in the audience."

The critic noted that a few days before the premiere of "King of Kings" its promoters announced that the film had received the highest rating from the Catholic Censorship Center, with the title "the Vatican's film-rating organization."

Calling this a "sleight of hand technique with a press who released," she pointed out that the CCC is not a Vatican organization, but an Italian Catholic national group. Furthermore, she stressed, "Catholic film-classifying groups in various countries frequently reach different conclusions on the same film."

In New York, Miss Walsh recalled, the Legion of Decency, a national Catholic film-viewing group, had given "King of Kings" a "separate classification," acknowledging its inspirational intent, but at the same time calling attention to "the poetic license taken in the development of Christ" which "renders the film theologically, historically and scripturally inaccurate."

"What the uninitiated can be counted upon to infer from the (press) release," she said, "is 1) that the Pope has personally pinned a medal on the picture and 2) that, in expressing reservations about it, the American Legion of Decency is not showing proper respect for the

central authority of the Church."

The critic warned that "as long as film companies persist in these tactics the chance of a fruitful dialogue between the churches and the film industry in this country seems fairly remote."

Miss Walsh said that in most cases, dogmatic or scriptural accuracy has been too much to expect of Hollywood, so the Legion reluctantly accepted what it could not change."

But she said "King of Kings" presented an entirely different kind of problem, because "this is not a well-meaning bit of pious fiction in which Christ appears briefly as an off-screen voice or a faceless white-robed figure," but rather purports to portray the life of Christ. Thus, she declared, "some regard for facts and some spiritual comprehension are required if the film is not to be literally blasphemous despite its impeccable air of surface reverence."

Spine Gap No Pain

London — (NC) — A woman who was healed half a century ago of paralysis upon the application of an English martyr's relic has discovered that she should still be paralyzed—but isn't.

An X ray taken after an attack of lumbago revealed that the woman has a gap in her spine. Details of the phenomenon were revealed by the vicars of the Forty Martyrs, whose cause of canonization has been reintroduced.

The woman, known publicly only as "Mrs. H.," lost the use of both legs when she was less than two years old. She recovered completely after being blessed with relics of Blessed Edmund Arrowsmith, S.J., one of the Forty Martyrs.

When doctors told her 52 years later that the physical cause of her paralysis had not been removed although the paralysis had gone, she immediately made a pilgrimage of thanksgiving to the martyr's shrine at Ashton-in-Makerfield, near Liverpool.



Auburn Newman Club

FIRST MEETING of the season of the Newman Club of Auburn Community College was held at the college recently. Shown above are Rev. John T. Walsh, chaplain; Joyce Crowley, freshman representative; Mrs. Helen Mahon, co-advisor; Mary McCormick, vice president; Rev. John L. Hedges, University of Rochester Catholic Chaplain, speaker; and Joseph Camardo, faculty advisor.

U.S. Students Basic Credo

Washington — (NC) — Father Paul C. Reinert, S.J., president of St. Louis University, has proposed a "credo for American higher education" embodying a "basic American consensus."

Father Reinert suggested his "credo" in an address Oct. 6 to more than 900 college and university presidents and other administrators attending the annual meeting of the American Council on Education.

The Jesuit educator declared that "now if ever we must assert our fundamental agreement on those values which give inner content to the traditional beliefs and symbols of western culture."

HE PROPOSED this "credo."

"We believe in God.

"We believe in the personal dignity of man.

"We believe that man has natural rights which come from God and not from the State.

"We are therefore opposed to all forms of dictatorship which are based on the philosophy that the 'total man' (totalitarianism) belongs to the State.

"We believe in the sanctity of the home — the basic unit of civilization.

"We believe in the natural right of private property, but likewise that private property has its social obligations.

"We believe that labor has not only rights but obligations.

"We believe that capital has not only rights but obligations.

"We are vigorously opposed to all forms of 'racism' — persecution or intolerance because of race.

"We believe that liberty is a sacred thing, but that law, which regulates liberty, is a sacred obligation.

"We believe in inculcating all the essential liberties of American democracy and take open and frank issue with all brands of spurious 'democracy.'

"We believe in the intense study of the tenets and tactics of those who would seek to destroy these essential liberties of American democracy.

"We believe that 'academic freedom' should not be used as a pretext to advocate systems which destroy all freedom.

"We believe that morality must regulate the personal, family, economic, political, and international life of men if civilization is to endure."

Father Reinert warned that if American colleges and universities do not convey to their students such values as these, "we educators will stand guilty of shortchanging our students."

He criticized the tendency toward what he called "depersonalized" education in which the student is treated "as a number instead of as a person."

He blamed this trend on rising enrollments, the application of technology to education and the impersonal attitudes of some educators.

"It is the academic excellence not of robots or of faceless members of a mass, but of human beings, of persons, that the college or university and its faculty exist to foster," he reminded the school executives.

Jet Drops Fuel Tank, Church Art Ruined

Treviso — (RNS) — Priceless works of art by Italian artists were destroyed or damaged when a U.S. Air Force jet fighter dropped its fuel tanks over an ancient Roman Church in Preganolo near here.

Among the art works were a painting by Tintoretto (Jacopo Robusti), canvases by Jacopo Bassano and Palma il Vecchio, 16th century masters; and a fresco by Canaletto (Antonio) Canal.

Police said the pilot, Lt. Patrick C. Mesager of George Air Force Base, Victorville, Calif., was forced to drop the fuel tanks to maintain altitude. An American officer, however, said mechanical malfunction caused the incident. U.S. officials promptly promised to repair the church and to pay damages.

One tank nearly hit three women. Sandro Vecchiato, a sexton, was polishing a stained glass window when the church was struck, but he escaped injury.

World Thanksgiving Day

Washington — (NC) — A new and tries to erase God's view here that nine countries now have lay establishing celebration of Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday of November. They are: the U.S., Brazil, Cuba, Paraguay, Ecuador, Argentina, Costa Rica, Basutoland and the Philippines. Eight other nations have enlisted in the crusade under the leadership of their Catholic hierarchs: Ghana, Lybia, Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua.

Mrs. Tavora is director of the Brazilian office in Rio de Janeiro of Noticias Catholicas, Spanish and Portuguese language editions of the N.C.W.C. News Service. She has been working at Noticias Catholicas headquarters here for three weeks to seek new techniques of bolstering dissemination of Catholic news in Brazil.

Mrs. Alice Inard Tavora of Rio de Janeiro, secretary of the Crusade for a Universal Thanksgiving Day, said here: "God deserves not only the thanks of individuals but also an official indication of homage from states."

SHE STRESSED that "secularism paves the way for communism" and observance of a Universal Thanksgiving Day would be "a powerful weapon against the advance of both these antireligious philosophies."

"Secularism," she warned, "abolishes the name of God from public life and relegates it to the silence of individual life. Then communism takes

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Lutheran Likes It

Minneapolis — (RNS) — The Lutheran clergyman in charge of church building for the Church of Finland (Lutheran) says the new building at St. John's abbey university church at Collegeville, Minn., is the most impressive church he has seen in this country.

Dean Ahti Auranen, now visiting contemporary-styled churches across America, described the Catholic edifice at Collegeville as "almost perfect." In an interview, Dean Auranen reported that Finnish Lutherans are no longer building old-style churches.

"It is meaningless to build in Gothic or Romanesque," he observed. Church building, he said, "changes as the ways that God speaks to men change."

Monks Complete Massive Church

Collegeville — (RNS) — A massive new church was consecrated at St. John's Abbey and University here, incorporating many of the ideas of the liturgical movement which the Benedictine monks at the abbey have led in North America.

Architectural and liturgical experts used such words as "daring," "revolutionary" and "a turning point in American architecture" to describe the church of St. John the Baptist, designed by Marcel Breuer.

DESIGNED by Marcel Breuer, a Hungarian-born architect, the \$2,500,000 edifice is a kind of "concrete tent" which covers one of the largest areas in the world to be enclosed without the use of pillars — a 166-foot wide expanse.

Thus all worshippers have an unobstructed view of the altar and the altar is as close to all as possible.

At the church front is a free-standing concrete banner, 112 feet high and 90 feet wide, which houses five bells that were cast for the old abbey church in 1879.

Beneath the banner is a granite plaza with room for tables. Worshippers approach

the tables in pairs and receive the Host while standing. The Way of the Cross is literally a way marked by simple crosses cut in the stone floor.

The front of the church is a window wall of 520 stained glass windows framed in hexagons of concrete, designed and executed by Branislav Bak, a native of Poland and a member of the university art department.

The nave will accommodate a congregation of nearly 2,000, including the monastic community of some 200 priests and brothers, 1,200 college students, and 300 preparatory school students, as well as numerous lay retreatants who come to St. John's each summer.

Consecration of the church completes the first phase of a 100-year building program at St. John's. Earlier buildings, also designed by Mr. Breuer, included a monastery building finished in 1956 and a residence hall for students, completed in 1959. Currently, Mr. Breuer is working on plans for a library at St. John's.

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UN Army In Congo

Hero's Welcome For Chaplain

Dublin — (RNS) — Ireland is counting on being able soon to give a hero's welcome to a bespectacled, 40-year-old Catholic priest who has been serving as chaplain to an Irish contingent of the United Nations forces in the Congo.

He is Father Thomas Joseph Fagan who was captured along with 158 Irish troops forced to surrender at Jadoville after being surrounded by overwhelming numbers of Katangese soldiers.

Father Fagan was serving as a curate in a Dublin parish when he became a chaplain. Other chaplains serving the more than 850 Irish troops in the Congo are Father Felix McCabe, who is in Kamina, and Father Joseph Clarge, of Germanstown Camp near Dublin, who is stationed in Elisabethville.

As the Irish troops, already suffering for days from lack of food and water, sought whatever cover they could in a sun-blasted area of about 250 square yards, Father Fagan moved about helping to attend the wounded and keeping up the spirit of the men.

For this he was praised later by Commandant Patrick Quinlan, who himself, along with his men, displayed a gallantry in action that deeply impressed their attackers. It was reported that in Jadoville all the Katangese could talk about was the courage of the Irish troops.

Commandant Quinlan was the only one permitted to leave the hotel where he and his men were quartered under a heavy guard after being forced to surrender. Wherever he walked in Jadoville, one report stated, all the Katangese para-

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