

Obnoxious Or Mature?

Chicago — (RNS) — Movies are different from 30 years ago in their "intensity" on sex, violence, brutality and sadism, the head of the Legion of Decency said here.

Msgr. Thomas F. Little of New York, executive secretary for the Catholic film-evaluating organization, spoke to members of the Chicago Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women at their biennial conference.

People were complaining about sex and violence in the movies back in 1934 when the Legion of Decency was established, Msgr. Little said, and he regards the campaign for decency in the motion picture industry as "a long struggle which I envision will be going on 50 years from now."

Hollywood is "in business to sell the people what the people want," he said, and ticket purchases indicate a marked preference for films like "Butterfield 8" over such productions as "Sunrise at Campobello" and "The Diary of Anne Frank."

"The American people are the ones who are responsible," he said, "and there should be a chastisement of the American taste if there is a surge of bad films, because we can control them at the boxoffice."

Msgr. Little said there is "a gap" between material which is "legally punishable" and that which is "morally bad," so that "the voice of the people" as represented in such organizations as the Legion of Decency is needed.

"Some people say pictures on nudism and burlesque are permissible," he continued. "These pictures are shown legally, but you know they are obnoxious and dangerous in our society, particularly in the debasement of youth. So between the legal

ly permissible and the morally obnoxious, we Catholic people must express ourselves. If our people are going to know what films are morally acceptable and which are morally dangerous they must be apprised of these facts, so the Legion of Decency publishes a list of films acceptable for specified age groups, those objectionable in part, condemned, or separately classified for a fully mature adult."

Msgr. Little discussed at length the Legion's own troubles with the A-3 or adult category it introduced in 1957 to keep up with Hollywood's use of the term "adult."

"The greatest number of letters the legion receives in complaint," he said, "are focussed on the A-3 category. Usually the objection is without foundation. People say, 'I went with my teen-age daughter or son, and was so embarrassed by parts of it that the Legion of Decency has let me down and is not performing its true function in the church.'"



Consecration ceremonies at Sacred Heart Cathedral were climaxed Wednesday when Father John Burke of Rochester, England, blessed a new statue of St. John Fisher for a Cathedral side altar. He and Bishop Kearney are shown just prior to the blessing rite. Father Burke is pastor of St. John Fisher Church which was built with the aid of funds contributed from the Rochester, N.Y., Diocese.

Flying Parishes For Emigrants

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII called here for the formation of "flying squad parishes" headed by missionary priests to serve the spiritual needs of the large numbers of Catholic emigrants in new homelands throughout the world.

The pontiff said such parishes, working in close cooperation with the already established churches in the particular country, would be suited to the needs "of people on the move."

HIS PROPOSAL was contained in an address to members of the Church's Supreme Council for Emigration which was meeting in Rome under the auspices of the Vatican's Consistorial Congregation. Present for the conference were 16 bishops, members of the Council, from several continents.

The Pope's speech was made during a special audience here for Council members and was broadcast over the Vatican Radio.

Stressing the importance of religious traditions and morals,

the Church's work among emigrants, the pontiff pointed out that many Catholics have been forced to leave their native land since the end of World War II because of religious persecution.

"The migration of peoples bears with it serious spiritual dangers since the emigrants often find themselves in surroundings with different beliefs than their own," he told the Council members.

Pope John recalled that he had expressed his preoccupation with the problems of emigration in his first encyclical, Ad Petri Cathedram, in which he said "this dire condition becomes only too often a source of dangerous crises and progressive obliteration of healthy religious traditions and morals."

Picture Worth Millions or Only \$13

Ellsworth, Kan. — (NC) — The famed Flemish artist Peter Paul Rubens lived for most of his life in Antwerp, where he died in 1640.

That's the big question facing Father Emmett Coler now, as he waits for New York art specialists to decide whether a painting he bought for \$13 is an original Rubens worth up to \$2.5 million.

Father Coler, pastor of St. Bernard's church here, is an amateur painter. Recently, at an art auction in McPherson, Kan., he bought an old frame for \$13 to encase one of his own works.

Inside the frame was an old painting. But Father Coler paid it no attention until he began to remove it. Then he discovered on it the words: Antwerp, 1599.

He refused, explaining: "If it isn't real, I don't want any money."

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Meanwhile, this Kansas city is in an uproar. Father Coler — and others — recall that a Rubens recently sold at a London auction for \$776,000. Estimates of what the priest's painting would be worth if it is an authentic Rubens have run as high as \$2.5 million.

Father Coler has been approached by a number of people who want to buy shares in the painting and are willing to

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