



Ann-Margret pleads with Alain Delon not to return to crime in a scene from "Once a Thief," U.S. finalist for International Catholic Film Office's "Grand Prize."

'Once a Thief,' Crime Film Seeks Top Catholic Prize

An American-made film, scribed as a "compendium of years," is a finalist in competition in Assisi, Italy, for the Grand Prize awarded annually by the International Catholic Film Office.

The film, MGM's "Once a Thief," qualified for the Grand Prize by winning the International Catholic Film Office prize at the San Sebastian film festival this summer in Spain. Festival winners, chosen for their human, spiritual and artistic values, are selected by Catholic Film Office juries at Berlin, Mar del Plata, Cannes, Locarno and Venice prior to the Assisi finals, scheduled for Oct. 10-17.

The only U.S. finalist to date, "Once a Thief" has been released to theaters this fall. It stars Alain Delon, who portrays a young family man who was a criminal at one time but who is trying to lead a respectable life. Having already lost a series of jobs because of his record, he loses still another when he is wrongfully suspected of a murder and robbery in San Francisco's Chinatown.

Distressed and discouraged

because his wife (played by Ann-Margret) must work in a cheap nightclub to support him and their small daughter, the young man offers little resistance when his gangster brother (Jack Palance) asks him to take part in a big robbery.

"The consequences of all this are going to be pretty dire and they are," commented the Catholic Film Newsletter in a review in its "best of the new films" department. The newsletter is the film education publication of the National League of Decency. "In a way, the film is a compendium of crime movies of the last 20 years, having echoes of 'Boomerang' (police brutality), 'Kiss of Death' (one of the crooks has Richard Widmark's evil laugh and gratuitous urges to kill), 'Asphalt Jungle' (the big heist) and others."

Providing some background commentary, the newsletter observed: "The classic crime movies of the thirties and forties were straight-forward hard-boiled thrillers that did not pretend to social significance (other than crime not paying). Instead they were offered as escapist fare that concentrated

on fast-paced action and some good dialogue.

Since then, the newsletter went on, "psychology has been used to make such stories more realistic and meaningful," adding that "Once a Thief" is a "crime story of this modern kind."

Given special attention in the newsletter's review is the work of Ralph Nelson, who "directs with sensitive feeling for people and situations." Nelson also directed the highly acclaimed film, "Lilies of the Field," which won an Academy Award for Sidney Poitier.

"His black and white Panavision camera skillfully ferrets out the essential elements in each scene," the newsletter continued. "The San Francisco settings are considerably real and appropriate. For instance, Delon's simple home and its old-fashioned pictures of his parents and its second-hand furniture visually states the condition of the man intent upon reform. Especially in his action scenes, Nelson demonstrates his talent to stage a fight, to portray the insanity of a brutal murder, or to build suspense in the big hold-up."

The film is also filled with "excellent characterizations," the newsletter found: "Van Heflin is perfectly cast as the officer who is haunted by the fact that a jury did not accept his identification of Delon as the robber who shot him (years earlier) and the gnawing self-doubt that this has engendered within him. Jack Palance is once again the soft-talking, smiling menace that made him famous when he first played such a role in 'Panic in the Streets' (1950). "Delon is a sympathetic character, even if we are overly familiar with the type. In a particularly good scene in which he tries to collect some unemployment compensation, he is ignored, given the run-around, and finally ends by tearing up his identification forms as meaningless scraps of paper. Anyone who has come face to face with impersonal bureaucracy will feel the situation strongly." (Catholic Entertainment Features)

Graduate From Nursing School

Ten Rochester area girls were among the recent graduates of St. Joseph's Hospital of Nursing in Syracuse.

They were:

Joan Boylin, 4142 Ridge Rd. W.; Mary Ellen Zeller, 165 Orchard Dr.; Kathleen Ann Wolf, 362 Selye Terr.; Mary Scholl, 48 Arbutus St.; Sharon Somerville, 40 Penfield Crescents; Clare Stratton, 570 Garson Ave.; Diane Schneider, 2400 Titus Ave.; Alice Schickler, 577 Trabold Road; Barbara Hohman, 173 Caroline St.; and Cheryl C. Favasali, 337 Shore Acres Drive.

25 Years Ago

(From files of Catholic Courier, Sept. 12, 1940)

A new and complete liturgical altar was dedicated at St. Bernard's Seminary by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. F. Goggin, rector.

Bishop Kearney invited all priests of the diocese to the first Catechetical Institute presented by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine for consideration of "The Religious Instruction of Catholic Pupils attending Public Schools."

Departure Ceremony for the first five Sisters of St. Joseph assigned to open a mission in Selma, Alabama was scheduled at the Motherhouse chapel in Pittsford with Bishop Kearney to preside.



SISTER ANN STEPHEN

Local Grey Nun Professes Vows

A Rochester young woman was among 12 Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart professed in ceremonies August 24 in St. Ann Hall Auditorium, Melrose Park, Philadelphia, Pa.

Sister Ann Stephen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred M. Zillioux, an alumna of Our Lady of Mercy High School and member of St. Thomas the Apostle parish was professed by Auxiliary Bishop Gerald V. McDevitt of Philadelphia with nuns from Philadelphia, Boston, Ogdensburg, Brooklyn and Buffalo.

Annual Scouts' Retreat Set at SVD Seminary

Plans for the annual retreat for Catholic Scouts and Leaders, sponsored by the Catholic Committee on Scouting, were announced this week by Rochester Area chairman Joseph Cesarone.

Units from Monroe County and the Southern Tier Councils will enter camp sites at the Divine Word Seminary at St. Michael's Mission at Conesus, New York on Friday, October 1 and will remain for the closing ceremonies at noon on Sunday, Oct. 3.

Retreat leaders Andy Meritt and Jim Langdon will accept reservations from units planning to attend. Applications were mailed to leaders. Programs for both spiritual and scouting periods will be arranged and a candlelight ceremony involving all retreatants will take place Saturday evening.

On Sunday morning, groups will be escorted on conducted

tours of the Mission buildings, work shops and cottages to show the visitors some of the preparation and talents offered to young men who are candidates to the religious life.

Attendance at the retreats fulfills part of the requirements for applicants of the Altare Dei Award.

Nurses Slate Installation Rite

Installation of officers of the Rochester Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses will be held in the chapel of St. Mary's Hospital on Sunday, Sept. 19, at 3:15 p.m.

A business meeting will follow in the Student Union Room — Bishop Kearney Educational Building, at the hospital.

Chapter delegates are requested to submit reservations for the New York-New Jersey Regional Conference of Catholic Nurses to be held in New York City in November.

Knights on Radio

Members of Rochester Council 178, Knights of Columbus who are celebrating their birthdays in September are being asked to assist Charles F. Zurek in recitation of the Rosary for Peace, Sunday, Sept. 12 in the Chapel, 401 Orange St. at 6:45 p.m. Program is carried by WSAY at 7 p.m.

'Irish Fair' At Macedon

St. Patrick's Church, Macedon, Annual "Irish Fair" will be held Saturday, Sept. 18, in the Church hall and parking lot, 4:30-7:30 p.m., in the Church hall by the ladies of the parish under the guidance of Miss Marie Tra nka. Admission is \$1.50 for adults, children under 12, 50 cents.

Various booths and games are also planned under the direction of Messrs. Alan Brooks, James Crowley and John Marvin.

The public is invited to spend "a few hours at St. Patrick's on the 18th of September."

Programming Preparation Stressed By Chaplain

Hornell—The importance of sound preparation for effective programming was emphasized by Father John L. Coonan of Hornell at the opening meeting of the Steuben Deanery of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Aug. 30 in the cafeteria of St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell.

Father Coonan, chaplain of St. James Mercy Hospital, is spiritual director of the Steuben Deanery which includes more than 1,500 members of Catholic women's organizations in Hornell, Bath, Cohocton, Wayland, Hammondsport and Prattsburg.

Officers of the various units which make up the Deanery represented their organizations at the initial meeting which was conducted by Miss Josephine FitzGerald of Hornell, Steuben Deanery president.

Father Coonan outlined the purposes of the Deanery which have the principal goal of assisting the units within it to carry out an effective program of Catholic action, thereby benefiting the entire community.

Ideas exchanged at deanery meetings, implemented by suggestions from the diocesan council, should be brought back to the various affiliates for discussion and adoption.

He recommended a strict adherence to parliamentary procedure in the conducting of unit meetings to insure the maximum coverage of material with speed and efficiency.

Miss FitzGerald, in her opening remarks to the representatives from the nine affiliated organizations which comprise the Steuben Deanery listed the major purposes of the National Council of Catholic Women, which is made up of the various deaneries and diocesan councils throughout the country. They are:

Providing authoritative information and material in religious, educational, social and economic fields;

Assisting member organizations to make their own work more effective through the use of this material;

Joining with other groups and individuals in each community to work out a Christian solution to current social problems.

Miss FitzGerald concluded:

"Affiliation with a deanery, which is the basic unit of the National Council of Catholic Women gives each of us a part in the combined efforts to serve God and to help our fellow men. It gives us strength of unity and purpose in the conquest to preserve and advance the Christian way of life.

The nine affiliated units in the Steuben Deanery are:

Court St. Ann, Catholic Daughters of America, St. Ann's Mothers' Club, Ladies of Columbus and St. Ignatius Rosary Altar Society, all of Hornell;

St. Mary's Rosary Altar Society, Bath; St. Gabriel's Rosary Society, Hammondsport; St. Patrick's Rosary Altar Society, Prattsburg; St. Plus Rosary

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Basilian Scholastic To Study In Paris

An Aquinas Institute French instructor will study Sacred Theology at the Institut Catholique in Paris for the next four years it was announced here this week by Rev. Robert M. Fischette, C.S.B., director of studies for the Basilian Congregation.

Michael J. Wesley, C.S.B., a graduate of Aquinas and later a teacher for two years there, will pursue studies in preparation for the priesthood at the renowned French institution.

After ordination he will take courses leading to the doctor's degree in theology.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Wesley, 28 Sumner Park, and

man of the student tutoring service; yearbook copy editor; student council member, etc. He won a listing in the National Collegiate Who's Who as a fellow who "knows something about everything."

Wesley was chosen valedictorian from his Villanova graduating class of more than 700 seniors and shared the stage with the commencement speaker, Richard Cardinal Cushing.

Following graduation from Villanova, Wesley entered the Basilian Fathers Community and his novitiate training at Pontiac, Mich. Before serving on the Aquinas staff where he was assistant debating and speech coach, he taught at Andrean High School, Gary, Ind., and took graduate studies at the University of Detroit.



MICHAEL J. WESLEY, C.S.B.

formerly a member of Blessed Sacrament parish, Mr. Wesley graduated from Aquinas with literary editor of the school yearbook, sang in the school glee club and was the Aquinas representative to the Rochester Association of the United Nations.

Upon graduation from high school he won a scholarship to Villanova University. There he compiled a four-year average of 95 per cent, while functioning as co-editor-in-chief of Villanova's literary magazine; chair-

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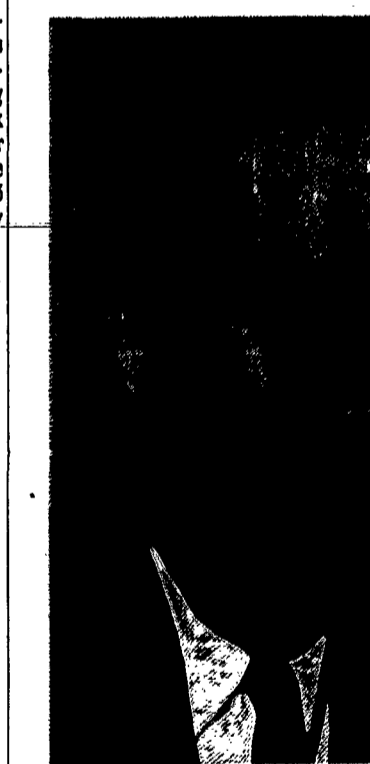
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