

Leading Roles for Sidney Poitier

(Continued from Page 5)
 cowboys" Dr. Ruskowski explained, and "The Slender Thread," in which he played an intercom who keeps in communication via phone with a would-be suicide.
 "It would be very difficult to accurately determine how Poitier's roles have influenced attitudes toward Negroes," he said. "You would have to get, for comparison, a group of people who had never seen his films, and with their frequent showings on television I think that would be quite difficult. But in my research I talked with a number of persons who admitted that their opinion of Negroes had changed after they

had seen a Poitier film.
 Ralph Nelson, who directed Poitier in "Lilies of the Field," told Dr. Ruskowski of the grave concern over the public's reaction to a Negro in a starring role for the first time in a picture that was not all-Negro. Nelson recounted the reaction of the picture's film editor, who was the first to see the "rushes" of Poitier in his role as a Baptist, Negro who helps five

Austrian nuns build a chapel in the Arizona desert. "He was a Southerner without special sympathy for Negroes," Nelson said of his film editor. "But he told us, 'I like that man. When I heard that, I knew we had won the battle.'
 Dr. Ruskowski believes that Poitier's contribution to the Negro's struggle for equal rights may be overshadowed by those of Negro rights leaders, such as Martin Luther King or Roy Wilkins.
 "I think Negroes would tend to admire more those men or political leaders, because they

are more immediately conscious of what these men can do for the Negro. I don't think they're really aware of what Poitier has meant to them."
 He also contrasted Poitier's contribution with those of Negroes such as Duke Ellington, Lena Horne, Jackie Robinson, Frank Robinson and others, who, he said, are recognized as singers, musicians or athletes. Poitier's roles, however, have given white people an opportunity to see the Negro in a variety of positions in society, Dr. Ruskowski said.
 (Catholic Press Features)

Public Forums at Fisher, The Subject is 'God'

"God" will be the topic of the next in a series of public forums being sponsored by the philosophy department and Philosophy Club of St. John Fisher College Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 7:45 p.m. in St. Basil Hall Auditorium.
 The speaker will be Dr. Richard Taylor, professor and chairman of the department of philosophy at the University of Rochester.
 Professor Taylor will analyze classical and contemporary positions regarding the central question involved in competing Christian and Marxist huma-

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BROTHER EGAN
At Kearney HS
 The Parents Clubs of Bishop Kearney High School will hear noted psychologist Dr. Robert M. Eggen of Iowa College Thursday, Feb. 9, at 8 p.m. His topic will be "Some Dynamics of Adolescent Development." He is widely known for his articles and lectures, and has held numerous positions of leadership in professional psychological organizations.

Steuben Men Plan Retreats
 Fourteen men from seven parishes of Steuben County recently met to promote retreats at the new Notre Dame Retreat House at Canandaigua.
 Victor Gassner of St. Joseph's parish, Wayland, described the new structure and proposed possible ways to increase attendance at retreats.
 Representatives who met at St. Mary's parish hall, Bath, included men from St. Mary's, Corning; St. Stanislaus, Bradford; St. Ann's, Hornell; St. Ignace, Hornell; St. Gabriel's, Hammondsport; St. Joseph's, Wayland, and St. Mary's, Bath.

New Horizons Study Topic
 A booklet titled "New Horizons for the People of God" by Father Peter J. Rigo has been selected as the Lenten discussion club book according to Monsignor Albert H. Schack, diocesan director of the confraternity of Christiana Doctrine.
 The booklet sells for \$1 and is available at religious book stores.

Easter Seal Chairman
 Lowell H. MacMillan, Vice President of WREC Studios, has been named chairman of the 1967 Easter Seal Campaign by Bernard P. Projaraky, President of the Crippled Children's Society of the Society of Steuben County. The 1967 campaign begins on Feb. 20 and will continue through Easter Sunday, March 28.

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