Let's Communicate About Movie Ratings

I have been rather upset by adults. some of the low quality and definitely B-grade movies that that today's ratings are still far have recently been slipped into from infallible. Morever, the or A-3's in the ratings of the needs to be considered. Thus N.C.O.M.P. I have begun to lose the ratings of the N.C.O.M.P. and now shouldn't serve as one's sole both the moral and technical guideline. Instead, one should being produced to day.

It is true that the National Catholic Office for Motion Pic. N.C.O.M.P. ratings might be tures (N.C.O.M.P.) has in the more helpful if, when each ratpast couple years liberalized its ing first comes out, they would standards at least to the extent give a brief explanation of why that a number of movies which they rated the picture as they has formerly been classified as did. It would seem a benefit to B have now been reclassified as those consulting the N.C.O.M.P.
A3 or A4. However, we feel that this is a necessary develop of the worthwhile aspects of the ment on the part of N.C.O.M.P. film and not merely list the pit for as people's attitudes confalls as they presently do. cerning what is acceptable in a motion picture change, so-too like to see it continue.

that should be mentioned. First of all, a rating A-3 or ments to: A4 means "for adults" and "for

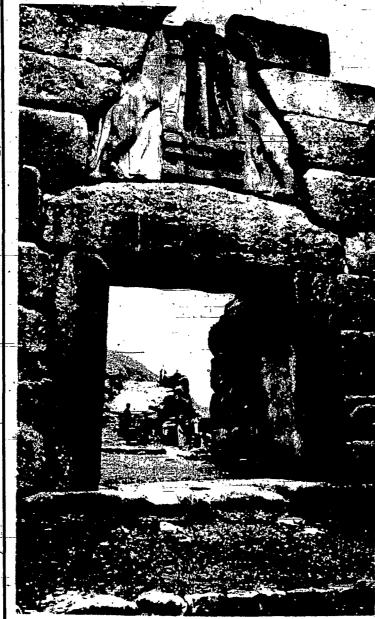
very mature adults" respective-Let's Communicate ly. These ratings are beginning Becket Hall to mean exactly what they say. 75 Fairport Rd. Gone are the days when most E. Rochester, N.Y. 14445

A-3 movies would not even of As a parent of two teenagers, fend the most sensitive of

We should also remember the A category as either A-4's maturity of the individual also quality of the movies that are also consider newspaper and magazine film reviews and the Elizabeth B opinions of those who have seen the movies in question.

Ratings will serve as a warnthe standards for appraising ing as to what one might expect these films must also change. from a film, but rating movies Whereas thirty years ago the alone will not change the cali-mere presence of the word ber of the movies being made "damn" in a movie could cause today. If parents feel that the an uproar, today no one would motion pictures being shown even bat an eye at such an oc-today are a danger to the moral curence. While taking into ac welfare of their children it is count obvious limits, standards their duty, as parents, to bring must reflect the times. The this matter to the attention of N.C.O.M.P. has made a start in the movie producers and dis this direction, and we would tributors. As long as parents continue to attend movies which Now, concerning your prob-lem, there are several points that should be mentioned that should be mentioned

Address questions and com-



THE FABLED Lion's Gate highlights the ruins of Mycenae, one of the most ancient cities of Greece. _The walls of Mycenae are the greatest monument remaining of the heroic age of Greece.

TWILIGHT silhouettes a lonely seaguil over the Aegean sea as the sun nestles against the Grecian mainland. Nearby offshore islands are dotted with Byzantine churches and shrines.

Fabled Greek isles

This is the last in a series on "The Crescent of Christianity" written by the Rev. C. J. McNaspy, S.J., associate editor of America magazine. Photos by Rev. Elmo Romagosa of the CLARION. Copyright, June 1967, by the CLARION Heraldi.

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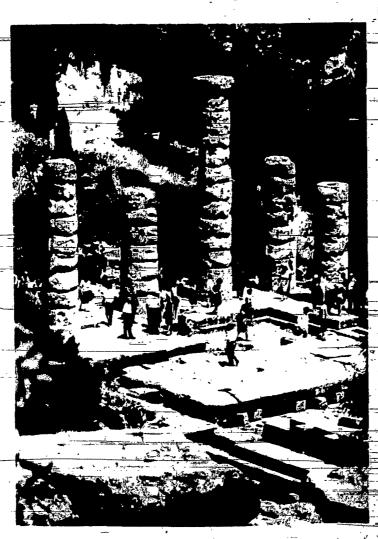
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THE 11TH CENTURY monastery of Hosios Lukas enshrines striking Byzantāne mosaics such as those above of St. Peter and St. Paul. But equally striking are the etched-like faces of present day monks of the mon-





ON THE SLOPE of Mt. Parnassus is the Temple, of Delphi. The area was called by Greeks "the navel of the world." The temple was the site of the Pythian Oracle which guided the destinies of thousands.

By the REV. C. J. McNASPY, S.J.

From Athens the pilgrim may easily visit a number of other jeweled spots: Daphni (mentioned in our last article), Cape Sounion (one of the most beautiful spots in Europe, with its temple remains and view out over the Aegean), and a host of others. Even a short trip over the Aegean will prove most rewarding and introduce one to the Greek

The nearest islands are quite accessible. Aegina, for example, carries one into the real world of Greece, far from metro-politan Athens. It is dolted with hundreds of little Byzantine churches and shrines, and crowned by a handsome temple, dedicated to Minerva-

On a clear day - and most days are transparently clear - one can see the Parthenon in the distance, and to the right the temple at Sounion, a triangle of wondrous shrines. Other islands that can be comfortably visited on a single-day voyage are Poros and Hydra, as you skirt the shore near Nauplion (which was the capital of Greece following its war of independence, from 1829 until 1834, when the government moved to Athens).

NOT FAR TO THE WEST of Athens the one that the Romans and later Europeans seem to have liked best. In 146 B.C. Rome captured Corinth, and from this is dated the incorporation of the Greek world into the Roman empire. The city was rebuilt and is again in ruins. However, one can visit and stand on the very spot where St. Paul preached to the Corinthians.

While we don't have his sermons, we do possess two magnificent letters that he wrote back to the church in Corinth. It is a particular joy to stand there on the Berna, or public platform, where Paul preached and read chapter 13 of I Corinthians: "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels . . ." The museum in Corinth is also worth a visit, and you will stop and admire the canal that

cuts through the Isthmus of Corinth. If you have time, you will want to continue southward into one of the oldest civilized areas of Greece. We know little of the country at the time when the Pyramids were being built in Egypt, but some 400 or 500 years later (around 1900 B.C.) Greece seems to have been invaded by ancestors of Sophocles, Socrates, and other "classic" Greeks. They produced a high culture often called Mycenaean, sance Mycenae was one of its centers.

ANOTHER CONTEMPORARY culture, apparently closely related, was centered on the island of Crete at Knossos (which you can visit in one day from Athens, taking a morning flight to Herakleion and returning that evening). At Mycenae you will visit the ancient battlements — far older than the Parthenon or other monuments in Athens — and enter the famous Lion Gate and the traditional tomb of the family of Agamemnon, the Atreidae. Here you are in truly ancient Greek history.

Still a few miles farther down in the shrine town of Epidaurus, where an ancient theater still stands and is in regular use during the summer. Estimates on the seating capacity of the theater vary from 16,000 to 30,000 (depending on the size of the viewers, I suppose); but, in any case, it is immense, and I can vouch for the truth of the story that the acoustics are perfect from any seat.

On another trip out of Athens, also to the west but north of the Gulf of Corinth, you drive past Marathon (where one of the most important battles was fought between Greeks and Persians, in 490 B.C.), on through Thebes (celebrated for the story of Oedipus the King, Antigone, and other classic plays), toward Mount Parnassus. This mountain, rising a mile and a half, must have impressed the ancient Greeks as much as it does us; for

NEARBY IS THE vast temple complex of Delphi, famed for its oracle, the most famous oracle of antiquity. The entire area was called by the Greeks "the navel of the earth." The spot is still so impressive that it is likely to leave the clearest and sharpest memories of all Greece, apart from the Acropolis in Athens.

The oracle was the mouthpiece of Apollo; mysterious fumes were said to emanate from a fissure in the rock, enlightening a priestess who had just been purified in the Castalian stream (still there, and you may drink from it). From all over the Greek world people would come to consuit the oracle, and though most of the oracular utterances were obscure if not ambiguous, the inscription on the temple was universally useful: "Know Thyself."

During the Middle Ages, a sanctuary was built in honor of a holy monk named Luke the Stiriote. Hosios Lukas was built in the 11th century, under the patronage of the Emperor in Constantinople, Basil II. It includes two churches, together with a crypt and monastic cells, and some of the most striking mosaics in Greece.

In modern times, it is a shrine not only to the faithful but to devotees of great Christian art.



nouncements were made and debates were held. temple of Aphaia, on the island of Aegina.

PRESERVED in the ruins of ancient Corinth is the Probably on this site above St. Paul preuched to Bema, or speaker's rostrum, where public anthe residents of Corinth. Below is the handsome

