

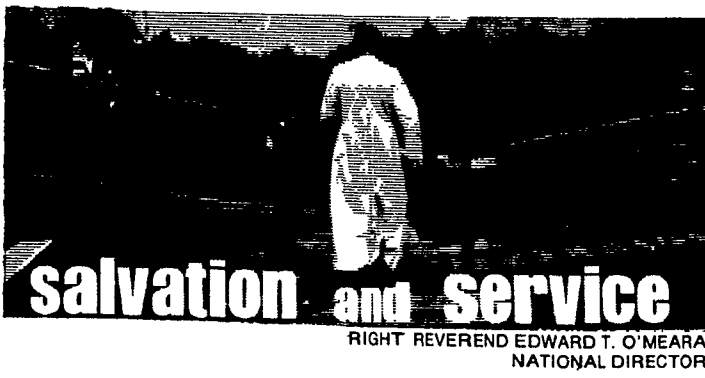
**Recommended TV Programs**

**New York — (NC)** — The National Catholic Office for Radio and Television (NCORT) lists the following network presentations as programs of special interest. The times indicated are for the New York City area, and may vary in other areas.

**Sunday, Dec. 22, 7:00 p.m.** — "Dr. Seuss' (story): How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Boris Karloff narrates the story of

**Tuesday, Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m.** — "Christ is Born" — story of the Nativity filmed in the Holy Land and Rome. (ABC)

**Wednesday, Dec. 25, 9:00 p.m.** — "Silent Night" — presentation of the writing of Franz Gruber's famed Christmas carol. (ABC)



**'How Far to Bethlehem?'**

Two thousand years ago shepherds left their flocks on the hillside and set out, following the star, to find the Babe. Today let us go together in spirit to Bethlehem.

The streets here, how dirty and all those people. Perhaps this is the census. Ah, yes, the census—100,000 nameless, suffering faces sleeping in the streets each night in the shadow of luxury; 200 million sawed cows which cannot be touched, while each of us daily discard enough food to feed six people. This cannot be the House of Bread.

Out of the stifling city at last. There is a mountainside, the stable must be there. Stables, they are, in even that exalted name can be given to such structures. As far as the eye can see up the hillside are adobe huts and fiber shacks massed over what was once a garbage heap.

Oh, that looks like a clinic and those are missionary sisters. Surely they will know the way to Bethlehem. Just look at those tiny rows of beds. Why, there is hardly room between them. How weak, how helpless, how much suffering already evident in their young faces. The sisters are kind, but the dreaded killer, malnutrition, claims the lives of 10,000 children in the world every day. They give them good care, but the sisters are sadly few in number and medicines are scarce. How many times have they watched death, knowing that with more help and supplies, they could have saved a tin life.

You are tired from the long trip and in half desperation, you ask, "When will we find the Babe?" Have you been so wrapped up in yourselves that you do not know that this very day you have seen Him? In your search for splendor, have you drawn away in disgust at the sight of Him hidden in hunger, in poverty, in disease, and cried out, "Lord, that's not how You are supposed to appear?" Have you not yet understood that He is where you find nothing to honor or admire, nothing to fear or reverence; that He is precisely where you feel so sure He couldn't be?

The Church, like the Babe, has come, "not to be served, but to serve." We at the Propagation of the Faith are striving to extend His love and compassion to our suffering brothers throughout the world. Christ has no other hands but ours to bring His love and consolation. You can help yourselves, you can help them, by looking daap within your own hearts this Christmas and realizing that Bethlehem is not 20 centuries ago, but in each man and woman in need today. Through you, Christ will be made known to them. Through them, you have been to Bethlehem today.

**SALVATION AND SERVICE** are the work of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Please cut out this column and send your offering to Right Reverend Edward T. O'Meara, National Director, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001 or directly to your local Diocesan Director, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. Duffy, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, New York 14604.

**Abolish 'Condemned' Rating, Columnist Urges NCOMP**

Huntington, Ind. — (CPF) — John E. Fitzgerald, film critic for "Our Sunday Visitor," the national Catholic weekly, has urged the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures to abolish its "Condemned" rating and, also, to take a less militant stand against film nudity.

Fitzgerald, a long-time member of NCOMP's board of consultants, said "the C-rating must go" because it is responsible for the formation of false consciences.

"For too long many Churchgoers have wrongfully believed it's ipso facto a sin to see a 'C' film," he wrote in a column.

The critic called for a new term to replace "Condemned" in the way that "film offices of other countries have done." He asked for "a word or phrase which would signify that because a film has failed artistically, it's judged because of that to be possibly dangerous and

**Minnesota Bishops Urge Confidence In School System**

St. Paul, Minn. (RNS) — Minnesota's Catholic bishops have called upon priests and laity "to give a vote of confidence to the Catholic schools" and urged them to continue their support.

Meeting at the Minnesota Catholic Conference, the bishops said they "unhesitatingly affirm that the role of the Catholic school in today's world is vital.

"We declare our belief in the value of Catholic education in forming a Christian people whose intellectual and cultural achievements are linked with deep religious convictions and a mature understanding of the meaning and purpose of life," the statement said.

"We assure our Catholic people that the substantial financial support they have so generously given to the Catholic schools is in reality an investment for their own religious freedom and that of their children.

"We encourage and support the efforts of Catholic educators to improve and strengthen the schools through such means as reorganization, centralization and creative programs of instruction."

degrading to an average adult. "Thus Catholics and non-Catholics alike may agree and stay away from trash and mediocrity, not in fear or misunderstanding, but because the reasons and reasoning offered makes plain good sense."

On nudity, which has been responsible for NCOMP condemnation of many films it otherwise would not have objected to, Fitzgerald warned that "we cannot allow the Church's film apostolate to deteriorate into a mere crusade against 'technical nudity' — a fanatical obsession with keeping the undraped form from the American screen."

One of NCOMP's key arguments against nudity on the screen has been that nudity is "never an artistic necessity," a stand which Fitzgerald attacked because, he said, moralists should not be allowed to determine what is or isn't artistically necessary.

He admitted that "with the increasing numbers of back-sides and bosoms we've been exposed to lately, some very concerned and not unintelligent people — many of them parents — might easily tend to panic in the face of such a trend."

But, he said, there is a difference between "nudity" and "nakedness," and that only the latter should cause concern.

"Nudity is abstract and universal and pure and non-erotic," he explained. "The pleasure it gives is aesthetic and not

**Anti-Draft Priest Supported by Presbytery, 148-110**

Bloomington, Minn. — (RNS) — A priest facing a jail sentence for destroying draft records in Milwaukee won what he called "a vote of confidence" here from a group of fellow priests of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis.

The Presbytery of the Archdiocese voted 148-110 to "express its gratitude to our brother priest, Father Alfred Janicke, for making us more sensitive to the issues involved by his witness to the dictates of his conscience and assures him of its support as he faces the consequences of his action."

Father Janicke, assistant pastor of St. Philip's Church, Minneapolis, was one of 15 draft protesters arrested in Milwaukee Sept. 24. They spent 30 days in jail as they awaited funds from friends to secure bail.

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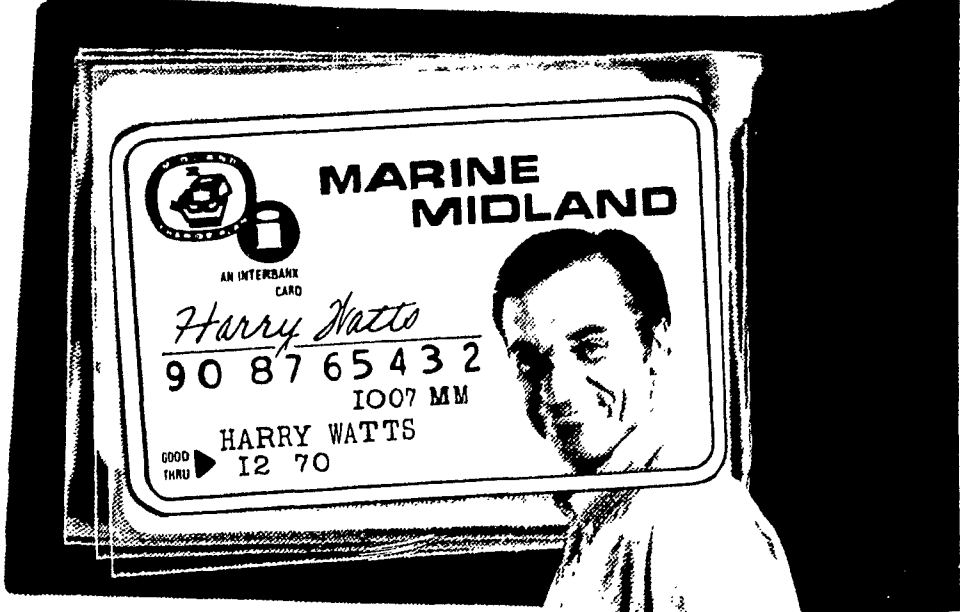
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