

As I See It

Drive for Televised Mass Grows

By PAT COSTA

A total of 21 names were sent to this column in the past week.

They came in reply to the short notation that has been running at the end of each week's television review on and off for the past two months.

Simply, it asks that those interested in seeing a televised Mass on local channels write to the Courier-Journal.

This brings to about 50 those who have either written directly to the column or added their names to another's letter to let us know of their interest in such a venture.

Some correspondents are octogenarians who while not immobile find it difficult to

get to Mass during the icy and snowy winter months. Others are bedridden. Some are readers who because of age know that regular attendance at Mass in the near future may not be possible.

One of this week's letter writers is Mrs. James Conaughty of Aurora.

She writes:

"My sister and I are over 80 years old and are approaching the time we will not be able to get to the church for Mass, much to our regret. It would be very comforting to have a televised Mass. We get good reception over Stations 8, 10 and 13."

From Anthony Pratta of Columbia Avenue in Rochester: "A number of our friends are interested in having a televised Mass on Sundays."

"My mother so misses getting out to Mass each week and she would appreciate seeing Mass on TV."

He concludes by listing 12 others who live on Monroe and Grigg streets, Plymouth, North, Columbia and Brooks avenues and Coulton Place. All would like a Mass on television.

Another writer signs only her initials. She says:

"My elderly parents wish me to write to you to tell you they are greatly in favor of not only having Mass televised on Sundays but other worthwhile religious programs as well."

"One program that would be interesting would be stories of olden day saints and modern Catholic heroes who

might someday be declared saints.

"Some of my parents' friends would also like the Mass," she adds and ends her letter with the names of eight of them.

The idea of the televised Mass began when I asked readers what kind of religious programs they preferred on television. The first to answer was Jane Colligan of Victor who proposed a locally televised Mass after noting the popularity of a similar Mass emanating from Syracuse over Channel 5.

Several readers then wrote in to complain that they could not get the Syracuse station in Rochester and would like to see the Rochester Diocese initiate such a venture here.

Movies

Here is a list of motion pictures currently playing in Rochester area theaters and the ratings given them by the National Catholic Office of Motion Pictures:

With the Catholic Office ratings we include the ratings of the Motion Picture Association: G, general; M, mature audiences; R, restricted (persons under 16 admitted only when accompanied by parents or adult guardian); X, persons under 16 not admitted.

Paramount — "Riot" (Adults, with reservations), R.

Regent — "Bullfight" (Adults), M.

Cinema — "The Subject Was Roses" (Adults), G.

Warning — "The Lion in Winter" (Adults), G.

Monroe — "Funny Girl" (Adults and Adolescents), M.

Riviera — "Star!" (Adults and Adolescents), M.

Studio 2 — "The Sergeant" (Adults), R.

Loew's — "Candy" (Condemned), R.

Stoneridge — "The Night They Raided Minsky's" (Objectable), M.

Panorama — "2001: A Space Odyssey" (Adults and Adolescents), G.

Towne — "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" (General), G.

Station — "Finian's Rainbow" (General), G.

Fine Arts — "Secret Ceremony" (Adults, with reservations), X.

Lyell — "Inga" (Condemned), X.

Little — "The Fixer" (Adults), M.

Bingo Described

As 'Social Therapy'

Helena, Mont. — (RNS) — Bingo was described as "social therapy" by the sponsor of a bill in the Montana legislature which would exempt the game from gambling laws when played for recreation or charitable causes.

Rep. Leland Schoonover said that older people find in bingo a social event which brings them together. "It's a bill for social therapy, let us say," was the way he described his legislation.

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DIOCESAN BANK
Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has raised the prelate of Cuera, Bishop Vincenzo Maya, who has been prelate since 1963, will continue the rank of a diocese, making it as head of the diocese.

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Tennessee Williams: Was He Always Seeking 'Sweet Bird of Youth'

Catholic Press Features

Key West, Fla.—The news that playwright Tennessee Williams had converted to Catholicism — after such early plays as "Baby Doll," "Suddenly, Last Summer," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and "A Streetcar Named Desire" — may have struck some people as a complete character-turnabout, but not the persons who really understood Williams and his plays.



TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Dakin Williams, the playwright's brother who became a convert during World War II and who was instrumental in Tennessee's conversion, recalls that as early as 1960 he, Dakin, wrote an article for a Catholic magazine and titled it: "Is Tennessee Williams a 'Catholic' Playwright?"

The article not only gave Dakin's detailed reasons for "yes" answer but also pointed out that Tennessee could claim "blood relationship to one of the greatest saints in history, Saint Francis Xavier."

According to "carefully documented family tradition," Dakin wrote, Tennessee is descended from the saint's brother, Valentine Xavier, a name Tennessee gave to the hero of his play, "Orpheus Descending."

According to news reports of Tennessee's baptism into the Catholic faith by a priest in Key West, the 54-year-old playwright told the priest he had been a Catholic in spirit all his life. When Dakin first suggested the idea nine years ago, along with the suggestion that "all of his plays, rightly understood, are morality plays," most Catholics thought the article should have been printed in the magazine's fiction section.

Nevertheless, Dakin analyzed a number of Tennessee's plays, including "The Glass Menagerie," "Sweet Bird of Youth," "The Rose Tattoo" and "Summer and Smoke," and discovered that "Tennessee, in his writings, has exhibited an increasing interest in Catholicism."

Of Williams' growing interest in Catholicism, Dakin cited a scene in "The Rose Tattoo" in which the heroine is unsuccessful in imploring the village priest to reveal the secrets of her dead husband's confession so that she might dispel her doubts about his faithfulness to her.

Tennessee once said he was hurt to think that people considered him primarily a "sordid, tragedy-obsessed, and controversial writer," Dakin reported. "He would rather think of his characters in terms of their spiritual assets—courage, generosity, humor, honesty, sympathy—than in terms of their failings."

Of "Streetcar Named Desire," Dakin said there can be "no valid moral objection to the exposure of this sort of sin in human nature," referring to Stanley Kowalski's brutality and selfishness in destroying Blanche DuBois' illusion about herself.

DOCKSIDE PARISH
Lisbon — (NC) — Portlouis maritime and Catholic traditions were linked in a dockside area's first parish council meeting held at the Stella Maris club for sailors in St. Paul's parish here. Fifty persons attended.

In "Summer and Smoke," the spiritually minded daughter of a clergyman, succeeds in converting the carnally inclined son of a physician to a belief in God, but the daughter—named Alma, Spanish for "soul"—herself succumbs to the sensual side of her nature. Dakin observed that this was an obvious dramatization by Tennessee of St. Paul's admonition that one should take care that in saving another's soul he not lose his own.

"What he is searching for," Dakin wrote in 1960, "and is yet to find, is hope and redemption—pardon for the sinner in the mercy of an all-loving God who will reward the sinner who succeeds in overcoming the evil effects of sin. As a searcher after truth, Tennessee may yet be led by his writings to what I have found to be the fountain of all Truth, the Church."

In both "Orpheus Descending" and "Sweet Bird of Youth," the heroes lament their lost innocence. In "Orpheus," Val Xavier speaks of a "strange sky-colored bird that never lands on earth, but stays clean and untouched, high in the sky near the sun: 'I'd like to be one of those birds and never be corrupted.'" In "Sweet Bird of Youth," Chance Wayne laments his corruption by life and seeks to recapture his "sweet bird of youth"—his lost innocence.

"Though the forces of evil often triumph in Tennessee's plays," his brother concluded, it is because these forces triumph in the world, but "no one can doubt that Tennessee's own sympathies lie with the Blanches and Almas, the Valentine Xaviers, and the Chance Waynes. He laments the loss of their innocence, their lives, and their souls."

Hey, Mrs. McGee
Wednesday is Prince Spaghetti Day... that leaves oodles of time for noodles.
A & S PRODUCT

TV Movie Ratings

Ratings are those given by the former Legion of Decency, now the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, when films were originally shown. A-1: morally unobjectionable for general patronage; A-2: morally unobjectionable for adults and adolescents; A-3: morally unobjectionable for adults; A-4: morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations; B: morally objectionable in part for all; C: condemned; No Rating: film has not been reviewed by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures (formerly the Legion of Decency). N.B. Before A-3 classification was established, A-3 indicated morally unobjectionable for adults.

Movie listings supplied through the courtesy of TV Guide Magazine

Friday, Feb. 7 thru Thursday, Feb. 13

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
4:00 p.m.	8	The Exile	A-1
9:00 p.m.	10	Executive Suite	A-2
11:30 p.m.	10	Down to the Sea in Ships	A-1
14:30 p.m.	13	The Wackiest Ship in the Army	A-1
Saturday, February 8			
2:00 p.m.	13	Mark of the Gorilla	A-1
9:00 p.m.	8	Taras Bulba	A-2
11:05 p.m.	10	The Sell Out	A-2
11:15 p.m.	13	The War Lover	A-2
11:50 p.m.	8	Black Widow	A-2
Sunday, February 9			
5:00 p.m.	13	Spartacus, Part I	A-3
9:00 p.m.	13	Spartacus, Part II	A-3
11:00 p.m.	13	The Story of Louis Pasteur	A-1
11:50 p.m.	10	Heilo, Frisco, Heilo	B
Monday, February 10			
4:00 p.m.	8	On Moonlight Bay	A-1
9:00 p.m.	8	Beau Geste	A-1
Tuesday, February 11			
4:00 p.m.	8	His Girl Friday	A-2
9:00 p.m.	8	Any Second Now	Not Listed
11:30 p.m.	13	Underworld, U.S.A.	B
Wednesday, February 12			
4:00 p.m.	8	Cowboy	A-1
9:00 p.m.	13	Bedtime Story	B
11:30 p.m.	13	The Running Man	A-3
Thursday, February 13			
4:00 p.m.	8	Santiago	A-2
9:00 p.m.	10	Dead Ringer	A-3
11:30 p.m.	13	I Saw What You Did	A-3

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Is Sal
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I have always poem of Laurenc ed—all creation Lord, made permit and Wounds:
"Oh kindred (Ye shall not la Far off there Of healing for When, faint in Each planetary
The Disillusioned: A about the New Frie Peter Thom a s. E. O.C.D. (Doubleday; \$5 priest assigned to an middle-class parish on the civic and eccles "establishment" and in a story that needs told with the hope that bring better understo to the trials and cro the priest of today.
The Catholic Left Crisis of Radicalism the Church, by James annl (Chilton; \$5.95). sonal statement of the of the Church by a m refuses to abandon Church: "While negat tone, it is a book th provoked thought, und Catholic complacence prod some into action gu issues that are th of the crisis in the C
A Time of Change: Hines for the Perplexo olic, by Frederick E. S.J. (Bruce; \$4.50) the "sermon" that "not to resign" st ply to muddling thro time of change in a sive attitude, but to ute to forming the gui studying what is prob and especially witne the further dimension ing human.
There Shall Be One ed by Michael D. M O.F.M. (The Francis sstitute; \$1.50). An am the Franciscan spiri works of Teilhard de C
An Introduction to Counselling, by Rev. J. O'Brien, C.S.V. House; \$4.95). Fathen emphasizes the imp of attitudes and stress counselling is not ju nique oriented.
Camilo Torres: His His Message, ed. by J varez and Christian B Calle, trans. by Virg O'Grady (Templegate; A synthesis of the g priest's thoughts on Christian response to injustice in Colombia.
The Day Kenedd Show, by Jim Bistror \$7.95). Bishop provid new information on ens of the tragedy w exception of a detai count of the questio treatment of Lee Har
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