Courier-Journal-Friday, March 14. 1969

# As I See It

### **A Stand That Takes Courage**

standard?

### By PAT COSTA

When is moral commitment news in the high finance have shown us the way, isn't world of television?

When it involves Doris Day and Lawrence Welk. That's **when** 

Recently the New York Times television editor Jack Gould has been reporting the story of what may turn out to be a minor revolution in the scomplex and intricate industry that combines big name stars, hard-shell advertising and products of sometimes dubious value, ed as encouraging.

Approximately two weeks ago, the Times revealed that both Miss Day, star of the CBS situation comedy show bearing her name and ABC's long wearing music maker Welk have contracts with their respective networks that exclude eigarette advertising

Shortly after that story appeared. Gould followed it up with the news that several offer announcers earning as much as up to \$100,0000 a year for their work in cigarette commercials have said "no" to any more tobacco advertising.

The names of these annoucers for the most part are unknown to us the viewing public. We recognize their faces and their voices.

And this viewer now goes on record as recognizing their courage and their sacrifices, which may be much greater than either Miss Day's or Mr. Weik's simply because other stures: work and income may be harder to come by for them than the established lumi-

naries. from the stands taken by the two celebrities. Had they not taken the lead in refusing to be associated with a product that has been branded as harmful to the health, the ago, the Times revealed that known to us the viewing pubdisassociation by the announcers might have had less impact on the rest of us. We are more impressed by the actions and moves of so-called Names.

It is to be hoped that many more such personalities will

Miss Adeline Mussi of 1909 Now that television stars E. Main St., Rochester, who it time that newspapers, both has been a shut-in for 11 years says she and two eldersecular and religious, as well as all other popular communily cousins would see a TV cations media take up the Mass as "an answer to prayer."

• Rochester have included a Letter writers may not be helpful suggestion in their bombarding this column with letter: missives but any week in

We are very much interwhich six people take the efested in a TV Mass as we are fort to sit down and let us know of their interest in a shut-ins and through the kindtelevised Mass must be countness of relatives are able to read the Courier-Journal. Most shut-ins can not afford One of the six notes bore the Courier and thus do not the signatures of five people. know there is a campaign for signatures. Would it be ask-

Thus our campaign to procure a regularly scheduled television Mass on a Rochester channel is chugging along quite nicely, thank you.

Our correspondents this. week include Mrs. Florence M. Rebholz of Conesus who writes that "There are times

when weather, roads, etc. will -not permit my going out on Sundays. In the past, Station 4 of Buffalo had a Mass at 11 a.m. but this has been discontinued."

Movies Here is a list of motion pictures currently playing in Roch-

ester area theaters and the ratings given them by the National Catholic Office of Motion Pic-

With the Catholic Office ratings, we include the ratings of the Motion Picture Association: G, general; M, mature au-This is to take nothing away diences; R, restricted (persons) under 16 admitted only when

accompanied by parents or adult guardian); X, persons under 16 not admitted. Paramount -- "The Wrecking Crew" (No Rating). M. Regent - "Bullitt" (Adults)

Cinema --- "Buona Sera Mrs Campbell" (Adults). G.

Waring-"The Lion in Winter" (Adults). G.

est in the TV Mass." Good suggestion. Any pastors who could find space for Mr. and Mrs. D. Ross of a line or two in their weekly bulletins about our campaign will help spread the word of the proposed Mass to many e-do-not-reach.

nounced from the pulpits then

friends and relatives could

alert the shut-ins to write to

the Courier expressing inter-

Others heard from this week include Kathryn C. Foye, 15 Portland Ave.; Fred Kingsley, Elmira; William Shea, 172 Burlington Ave.; and Mrs. Helen Butts, David Gerstner, William Ehrmantraut and Mr and Mrs. C. J. ing too much to have it an-Dobbertin all of Hedge St.

WHY BARABBAS INSTEAD OF JESUS? - In "Give Us Barabbas!", the Hallmark Hall of Fame TV production that has become a Lenten classic,

# Kurosawa Lauded for Christian Themes

Catholic Press Features

New York - His films are "making the most Christian statement about man and his world to come from the screen today," said a Jesuit writer, and "Time" magazine labels him "one of the monumental moviemakers of all time.'

Yet, because of the film-distribution system in the U.S., where films were invented, very few Americans have ever heard of Akira Kurosawa — or worse, ever seen one of his films.

But just as the Japanese director's leading actor, Toshiro Mifune, is now gaining American popularity by co-starringwith Lee Marvin in "Hell in the Pacific," there are those who say that Kurosawa's name will shortly be up there with Ingmar Bergman and Federico Fellini.

Certain to help is the American release of Kuro-sawa's "Red Beard," a film which won the International Catholic Film Office prize at the Venice Film Festival and which most critics regard as his best ---- surpassing his "Rashomon," which won an Academy Award in 1951, and his "Seven Samurai" a classic that has been often copied in such Western films as "The Magnificent Seven."

"Japan's Akira Kurosawa is one of the world's greatest film makers, and in this deceptively simple story about the spiritual growth of a young doctor, he has made one of his greatest films," commented "Time" magazine about "Red Beard," a film set in mid-18th Century Japan. In it, Mifune plays the head of a public clinic (he is nicknamed "Red Beard") who quietly per-suades a disillusioned young intern to see value in serving the poor rather than the rich, as he had planned to do.

On the surface, the threehour film - consisting of a series of clinic episodes looks like a Japanese version of "Doctor Kildare," with Mifune in the Doctor Gillespie role.

"But where his hero is a physician," summarized "Time," "Kurosawa is a metaphysician."

In its new-format "Catholic Film Newsletter," the Na-



tional Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, which just 21/2 years ago wrote off "Red Beard" as mere soap opera when it was screened at the New York Film Festival, displays a complete change of mind and now praises it

cluded:

"'Red Beard' was a courageous film for any director to make at a time when the current vogue of film-making is clearly that of romantic nihilism," said NCOMP in its newsletter.

lavishly.

"The film represents a challenge to our sensitivity; viewers will find that they have nothing to lose but their cynicism."

NCOMP describes Kurosawa as "one artist who has not been overwhelmed by the good and that the individual must be true to his humanity. | 1437 Blossom Road. His positive view of life is incorporated in every film he has made."

tolani, S.J., a Jesuit who was ity. Although he is not a Christian by any professed stationed at Sophia Univercreed, as he grows older his sity in Tokyo while undergreater films - some think taking a special study of the -are making the most Chris-Japanese cinema. In an extensive analysis of Kurosawa and tian statement about man and his films for "America" maghis world to come from the azine, Father Ortolani conscreen today.

"If his statements on pov-"Basically, the constant erty and justice, peace and theme---that---runs---through---honor, and man's dignity are much of Kurosawa's later and not totally Christian, they at better work — including 'Red Beard' — is a kind of least are shot through with Christianity, almost as if they had been borrowed from Sermon on the Mount, but a Pope John XXIII's 'Pacem in Sermon on the Mount limned against time and not etern-Terris.''

McQuaid Plans 'Take Me Along'

"Take Me Along," McQuaid veteran, will be special speaker Jesuit High School's spring on McQuaid's weekly discusenormous evil that men have musical production, will be pre- sion program, "Dare!" on Sunexperienced in our century. sented Thursday, March 20, day, March 15, when his topic He believes that mankind is through Saturday, March 22, at will be the importance of drama Mercy High School Auditorium, in the broadening process of education.

The annual play will be pro-duced and directed by Father William O'Malley, SJ., of the Meath Show, Monday, March 24, This view of Kurosawa is McQuaid English Department. Father O'Malley will discuss shared by the Rev. Benito Or Father O'Malley, a theatrical the generation gap.



tured are some details for the ketball Tournai Schmidt, CYO **Ronald Schoene** Emmanuel, ref man Driscoll, tor DeSimon, 1 tured include Talmadge,



**DIOCESAN HI** -Cagers of M and Mt. Carme for ball in one o in Diocesan Hi

