Parents of Four Religious TEENAGERS WANT TO KNOW

By FATHER MARTIN C.S.S.R. Dear Father.

I have a question concerning "The Legion of Decency" or whatever it is called, that guides Catholics as to what show to see.

and\confused. What can I do I think any person in his to help him? right mind would agree that the people who rate the movparish priest and would he ies hide behind the basic beliefs of the Catholic Church get in touch with him? and take it (the movie) for its face value (example, "The Iem is due to a lack of con-Graduate" and "Romeo and cern, lack of love and com-Juliet"). munication. Please tell me

My parents will not allow me to see any movie that has a lower rating than A-II. I think this is ridiculous and so do my friends and teachers (nuns). I think I am past the "Walt Disney" stage and I know I am mature enough to take movies in the right way. Example — "The Graduate." I read the book and heard the story from my friends and I know it had meaning-not just that sense. less affair.

You have to understand the characters and if you do, you will know that Benjamin needed help; he was mixed-up. I'm interested in psychologyand helping people and I'm known as a thinker and can see things more ways than most.

I think the "Legion of Decency" is okay for holy peo-ple, but for me, not a holy fanatic but a fair Catholic, it is for the birds.

Dear Susie,

Since I am not a part of the "Legion of Decency," now called the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures (NCOMP), I guess I don't have to defend myself. For that matter neither does NCOMP. It rates movies as a guide toward living a better Christian life. You may be interested in knowing that there are several such movie guides; Catholics do not have a monopoly on movie guides.

Your parents are responsi-ble before God for your spiritual and temporal upbringing. Maybe you think you are mature enough to read certain books and see certain movies, but they have a little experience and knowledge, themselves, and I-would think they know your maturity level, and judging from

He has stopped practicing his religion, doesn²t come Dea ar Pat

-Pat

Should I inform his former.

I believe the whole prob-

what to do to help him to get

stratghtened out, if it is not

already too late.

The main thing you can do home, and his parents do not is p-ray for him and continue go to see him or care what to show concern. When he does or where he goes. He realizes that someone really is living in another city and does care it may be the toinic I hardly ever get to see him. he meeds to readjust his life. I know he is quite disturbed

The problem between him and his parents will have to be worked out by them. You can't force people to cooperate. A lot depends on just how deep the division is and

the age of the boy. Maybe it's better that he is on his own for a while. It may help him to mature and to analyze his problems better. Maybe the parents are greatly at fault. but maybe a good deal of the fault lies with him also: It's hard to judge these matters

know quite a few of the pert-

inent facts: It may be of help to contact his former pastor. He may go out of his way and try to help the boy, It certainly wouldn't hurt trying. Once again, it will have the effect of showing the young man that someone is interested in him.

A talk with his parents may have some value also. I think it would be a good idea

Mark 50th Anniversary Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mitrano, the parish organizations at St. whose nine children include Anthony's Church, where they and give solutions unless you four in religious' orders, cele- were married Sept. 25, 1919. four in rengious orders, con-brated the 50th anniversary of their wedding yesterday, Sept. 25. Three of their six daughters are St. Joseph nuns. They are Sister M. Concetta, a teacher

They held open house at 242 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Arcadia Pkwy., where they Sister Cora Marie, who teaches moved two year's ago after near- at Nazareth Academy, and Sisly half a century at 33 Sara- ter Ann Regina, superior at St. toga. Saturday night, their fam- Monica's. A son, the Rev. Mr. ily will entertain them at din- Joseph C. Mitrano, is completing studies for the priesthood ner at the Blue Sombrero. in the Congregation of St. Basil. Mr. Mitrano, who was born

in Gaeta, Italy, in 1887, came Other members of the family here in 1905. He served in the are the Misses Isabel and Philo-Navy during World War I and mena, who work at Bausch & if you could ask the parish was named a "Man of the Year" Lomb; Mrs. E u g e n e R, priest to talk to his parents by the Catholic War Veterans. (Frances) Uttaro; Vincent P. and see if there is anything He was employed by Bausch & Mitrano, an assistant district athe could do to effect a recon. Lomb for 37 years. His wife, torney, and Gerard A. Mitrano, ciliation between them and Anna, 69, is a native Roches a lawyer with the Legal Aid the boy. May God bless you.





U.S. E Spokes Laud (Morate Washington (No

ence (USOC) ha statement saying Moratorium sched may serve the nati for *reexamination* prayer."

(Locally, St. Jo students will call classes and spon events to protest nam.

~(Father Charl president of the while he is not the moratorium, students' sincerit individual instru classes, and the in the scheduled

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your letter it isn't extremely high. In one sense you are correct, your parents are almighty, they take the place of Almighty God in your regard here on earth. No religion teacher, be it priest or nun or even Pope, can take away the lawful authority of parents.

You still have your free will. You can obey or disobey your parents, just as you can obey or disobey God. And you can go see all the movies you . want. When a manufacturer stamps "poison" or "caution" on one of his products, he is not taking away your free will. He is warning you that his product can be dangerous or fatal. You're free to take the poison. But he is informing you about the contents of bottle. You should be the grateful for his guidance and warning. In the same way you should be grateful for your parents' guidance and for the guidance that the NCOMP gives you.

And as a final word, I might encourage you to work on your grade as a "fair" Catholic and try to acquire genuine holiness without fanaticism. After all, Our Lord told us, "to become perfect as my Heavenly Father is perfect." May God bless you.

Dear Father,

Is the baptism which a Protestant receives from his minister valid And is this recognized by the Church?

_Dear_Martin,

There is no doubt that some baptisms in Protestant rites are valid and are recognized as such by the Church. Each case has to be examined on its own merits. One of the big questions that has to be answered is: what was the intention of the Minister in Baptizing. If it is equal to the intention of the priest when he is baptizing then that bap-tism would be valid.

Where there is a doubt about the validity of a Protestant baptism, the Church has the custom of baptizing a person, conditionally if he wishes to be received in the Church. In that case the Church is not saying the baptism in the Protestant rite was not valid; she is, saying !we're not sure the baptism is valid, and in such an important and necessary step toward salvation we don't want to take a chance.

When the Church baptizes conditionally she in no way means to demean the Protestant baptism; she merely wants to make sure in case there is a doubt about the intention of the minister who performed the baptism. May God bless you.

Dear Father. I have a problem that is

