



'New Clothes' on Stage

Hans Christian Andersen's "The Emperor's New Clothes," will be staged Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 26 and 27, 2 p.m., at the Mercy High School Auditorium. The Mercy Parents' Association is sponsoring the production; tickets at \$1 for students and \$2 for adults, are on sale at the high school. Featured will be [l-r] Anne Fleche, Chris Ayers, Mary Haefner, Maureen Casey, Mary Nunn, Elaine Valby, and Judy Kaye.

ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Father Paul J. Cuddy

On Dec. 2 CBS presented a TV film, greatly advertised for all to behold, namely *Catholics*. Since I thought this picture would be seen by over 30,000,000 people, I made it a point to see it. I was interested, not for personal entertainment, but because I am strongly convinced that TV is the number one educator of the nation.

It surprised me that a picture of special interest to Catholics was not seen by so many Catholic people. When I started a kind of personal survey, most of the people I talked with had been at church related events — parish council meetings, liturgy meetings, fund raising meetings — few of which had the importance to the Church that the devastating film had. Even the religious houses seem to have had only a corporal's guard watching, and one house decided to watch Ironside instead. As a matter of fact, Ironside is always edifying. *Catholics* was disedifying. St. Paul frequently uses the word "edify," because it means "to build up" and St. Paul constantly speaks of building up the Body of Christ, which is the Church. It is regrettable that *Catholics* was disedifying, presenting the Church of 1999 as a Church which had apostatized from the Faith given by Christ.

A friend of mine who is gifted by nature and grace with the zeal to write expressing her care for the Church, wrote to the advertisers her disappointment that the Church was so dreadfully misrepresented. Connecticut General Life Insurance Company replied: "We are sorry to learn that you found the CBS Playhouse 90, "Catholics" to be objectionable. While I'm certain it won't change your opinion, the mail we've received concerning the broadcast is preponderantly favorable. Enclosed are two reviews published in Catholic publications.

One was from the Catholic Transcript, and concludes a vague kind of review with the paragraph: "Despite some theological inconsistencies and ambiguities, the film seems to ask the question: 'Is the Church in the world and of the world, or in the world but not of the world?'" I think the film was far more clear than that. *Catholics* presented clearly the Catholic Church of 1999 as false to its mission and commission, as denying the Faith entrusted to her, but all wrapped

up in beautiful scenery and magnificent acting.

The other was from the Catholic Messenger, Davenport, Ia., by the gifted John Fitzgerald, who sometimes stumbles badly. This was one of his stumbles. He reviews the film with an ambivalence that makes one dizzy. But he ends his review with a panegyric which might better have been a requiem for the Faith. "However, this is a rare emerald in the crown of television, as hauntingly beautiful as the moody setting in which it reveals itself. 'Slainte' to all concerned."

If memory serves me right, "slainte!" is a Gaelic word used to toast a good man or a good idea, etc. To raise the cup in happy salute to the production of a film which denigrates the Catholic Church is like crying out: "Cheers!" at the execution of one's mother. No "slainte"; but a holy anger.

At Christmas time, with my Christmas greeting, I included an analysis of the film. Dozens of people wrote expressing their thanks. The one I like best is this: "Thank you for the article on *Catholics*. I watched the film carefully, and was distressed about it, because I know the impact that it will have on so many people. I am glad that you care enough to expose it for the evil it presents. And it is so much worse because it is so cleverly insidious."

BLACK ADOPTION TOPIC

Adoption of black children by black parents will be discussed on the Louise Wilson Show, Monday, Jan. 28, at 9 a.m., on Channel 13. Guests will be a caseworker from Northaven, a home for unwed mothers, and Mr. and Mrs. Ira Hill, parents of an adopted child.



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THE OPEN WINDOW

Father Louis Holman

Dear Father Holman,

In reference to your Dec. 5 column, we feel that the Scriptural comment that "after his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to the souls in prison," is sufficient scriptural indication for a Purgatory. I never cease to be amazed by priests who discount the Fatima message on Purgatory inasmuch as Popes, miracles and the "unerring instincts of the faithful" [to quote the Pastoral, "Behold Your Mother"] have attested to the credibility of Fatima. Specifically, I refer to the Blessed Mother's statement that Amelia would be in Purgatory until the end of time, which does seem to indicate some time element in Purgatory, as well as a prison sentence sort of affair.

I have heard the statement that either all or most of the canonized saints who lived in the last three hundred years were outstanding for their Marian devotion. Was it all or most?

Sincerely yours,
Louis Pasqua

from its relation to the historical happenings at Fatima.

The parts about Purgatory confuse me. I can't personally reconcile their tone of vindictiveness with the mercy of Jesus. It doesn't sound like Gospel to me — but then of course that could be my problem. The reference to time (till the end of the world) in that message may very well be analogical — the only frame of reference you and I can understand because it is the only one we experience. It is one of the reasons I do not care to discuss what Purgatory is like. If you wish to speculate, be my guest.

Were all or most of the canonized saints who lived in the last three hundred years outstanding for their devotion to the Blessed Mother? I really don't know. But on the assumption that all were aware of Mary's role in God's plan of salvation for the world and were also aware of her as an exemplar of the heights to which God can bring a human person, it would seem that all would be profoundly devoted to her. She is, after all, "our tainted nature's solitary boast."

Local SID Group Hosts Reception

A reception for new members of the Genesee Valley Chapter of the National Foundation for Sudden Infant Death, Inc. (SID) will be held Feb. 4 starting at 8 p.m. in the Lincoln First Tower, ninth floor conference room.

Refreshments will be served, and chapter members invite other SID parents, interested friends and professionals to attend.

Rides will be provided for those requiring transportation. Call Mrs. Jeanne Healy at 288-6638 to make arrangements.

Dear Mr. Pasqua,

Let me assure you that I believe in Purgatory but, like heaven and hell, I haven't the remotest idea what it is like. The quotation you refer to, 1 Peter 3:18, is not generally regarded by scholars as a reference to Purgatory. If you prefer to think so, it is merely your humble opinion.

As far as the Fatima message on Purgatory, I would remind you that Fatima is a private revelation, not binding on all. Perhaps it is imprudent to deny it in face of the evidence, but that does not constitute a denial of Christian faith. I would like also to make a distinction between the fact of Fatima and its message. The message of penance and prayer and the need of the world for Christ and His accessibility through Mary is a universally valid message apart

Paper Launched on Right to Life

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — National Right to Life News, a monthly newspaper designed to help unite pro-life forces across the country, has begun publication here by the National Right to Life Committee, Inc.

Some 800,000 copies of a complimentary pilot issue were distributed in November. Subscription memberships are available from NRLC headquarters at 1200 15th, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Editor Alice Hartle described the newspaper as "a unifying force, informing and educating the growing pro-life movement and serving as a vital link between the NRLC office and the grass roots organizations throughout the country."

In the pilot issue, an item titled "Human Life Amendment authors all have the same objective" was the lead story. It contained excerpts from interviews with Sen. James L. Buckley (R-N.Y.), Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan (R-Md.) and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), each of whom has introduced a right-to-life amendment in Congress.

Articles on various right-to-life activities and news reports of legal action involving right-to-life issues included "30,000 at life rally in St. Louis," "Illinois court rules viable unborn a person," and "Milwaukee attorneys fight for unborn baby."

CARDINAL RELEASED

London [RNS] — Cardinal John Heenan, the Archbishop of Westminster, who was rushed to hospital on Dec. 19 after a heart attack at his official residence, is now convalescing after release from hospital. The cardinal, who will be 69 on Jan. 26, spent a few days at his Westminster residence, and then left London for an undisclosed destination.

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