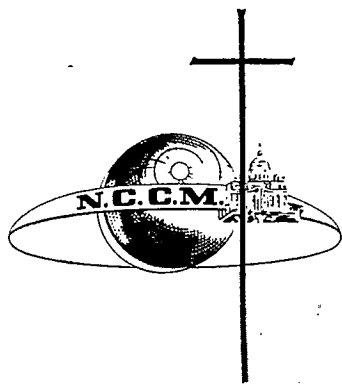


DECEMBER, 1963



Program & Training

A SERVICE OF NCCM TO AFFILIATES

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MARTIN H. WORK, Executive Director NCCM;
JOHN G. BOWEN, Editor.

Issue No. 44, December 1963

Catholic Action Award Contest

THE RESULTS of NCCM's national Catholic Action Award Contest are always announced at its national biennial conventions which occur during the spring in odd numbered years. The next one is scheduled for Dallas, Texas, April 28 to May 2, 1965.

The purpose of the Catholic Action Award Contest is two-fold: first, to stimulate significant apostolic action programs among Catholic men's organizations; second, to give national recognition to organizations that have contributed substantially to the work of the lay apostolate.

A very important by-product of the contest is the enrichment of NCCM's program library maintained at national headquarters. A national agency such as ours must remain constantly on guard against falling into the disastrous habit of programming in a vacuum. If our programs are to have vitality, if they are to be genuinely effective, step by step, in getting closer to the ultimate Catholic goal of winning the world for Christ, they have to be realistic in terms of the experiences, the needs and the capabilities of the organizations which are to carry them out. There is no better way to insure this realism in our programming than through the use of the vast experience, know-how and techniques of the thousands of organizations that make up our federation. The hundreds of entries, actual examples of practical, apostolic action programs, generated by the Catholic Action Award Contest meet this need and help us to fulfill our role as the focal point for the interchange of ideas and techniques among Catholic men's organizations throughout the country.

You will be hearing from us about the deadline for your entries in the Catholic Action Award Contest. We will be urging you to send us several entries—the more the better.

But NOW is the time to lay your plans for selecting your action programs, writing them up in narrative form so you will be ready to submit your entry or entries when the formal announcement of the contest is made.

Activities submitted for awards at the April, 1965, convention must have taken place between January 1, 1963 and December 31, 1964.

The Council Moderator



Hot or Cold?

by Rev. A. P. Heuring,
ACCM Moderator, Waterloo Deanery, Dubuque, Iowa

POPE PIUS XII, the great Pope of the lay apostolate, had some very pertinent things to say regarding the laity and mediocrity. "It is no longer permitted for anyone to be mediocre. . . . No Christian has the right to show himself tired in the fight against the anti-religious surge of today . . . no one can be excused for remaining in the presence of the enemy with folded arms, bowed head and trembling knees."

Listen also to the forceful and penetrating words of Christ on the subject of mediocrity: "I would that thou were hot or cold. But because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit thee out of my mouth" (Apoc. iii, 15-16).

Baptism deputizes a layman to do the work of God in the particular area in which he lives. Confirmation bestows upon the layman additional graces to do that work in a courageous and fruitful manner. It is most important that each and every layman realize that God has given him work to do that cannot be done by any other. If the layman does not execute his God-given tasks, they will remain undone for all eternity.

How many Catholic men really understand their God-given role in the lay apostolate? Ask 10 men and come up with 10 different answers. Nine out of 10 have no interest in their peculiar role. Christ healed 10 lepers; one came back to say thanks. He is the one who is ready and eager to assume the work of Christ while the other nine are the indifferent, the lethargic, the selfish, the mediocre.

How is it possible for Catholic laymen to remain mediocre in the light of present world conditions? How can they remain so complacent in spite of powder keg conditions in Cuba, Laos, the Belgian Congo, Algiers and the Dominican Republic? How can they sit on their hands while the Soviets grab off one country after another, numbering to date some 800 million people? How can Catholic laymen sit idly by as the most Catholic continent in the world, South America, is gradually lured away from the harbor of truth and the unity of faith? Dare any layman remain inert and disinterested when materialism, social injustices and gross immorality surround us on every side? Abbe Pierre, the rag-picking priest of Paris, once remarked that the greatest evil of the world is that men remain silent in the face of injustice.

The old clichés "I haven't the time"; "I worked last year"; "It's the priest's job"; "I'm getting too old—it's work for the younger fellows"; and "I don't know what to do" will not suffice to exonerate laymen in the final accounting of their stewardship.

Many of our laymen think they are fulfilling their apostolic role if they take up the Sunday collection, work at a parish bazaar or sell a few raffle tickets. They also are, for the most part, content to go through their entire adult life with no more than a penny catechism knowledge of the Faith.

(Continued on page 11)

The Cigarette and You

A vital and most practical topic for a meeting for your organization would be "Cigarette Smoking and Cancer". And another "Cigarette Smoking and Heart Disease".

Ask your pastor, or some other well-qualified theologian, to attend for the particular purpose of discussing the moral obligations of a man, especially a husband and father, to watch his smoking and teach his children the facts in the matter.

Also be sure to have a medical doctor, if possible two, to give his, or their, views.

In June, 1962 the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare appointed a committee of experts (*The Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health*) to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of all available data on cigarette smoking. The committee was made up of representatives of non-governmental professional groups, health organizations, the tobacco industry and representatives of several Federal agencies. Its report is expected to be definitive.

Two other studies in the same field are reported under way, one by the Council on Drugs of the American Medical Association and the other by the American Thoracic Society. The three studies are independent of each other and it is said that there is no overlapping of membership.

Resources

To help you get the pros and cons here are a few references. Plenty more are available.

Favorable to Cigarette Smoking

1962 Report of the Scientific Director by Clarence Cook Little, Sc.D., Tobacco Industry Research Committee, 150 East 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y. 58 page paperback pamphlet.

"Tobacco continues to be one of the subjects requiring study in the lung cancer problem, as do many other agents and influences in modern living. Science does not yet know enough about any suspected factors to judge whether they may operate alone, in conjunction with others, or whether they may affect or be affected by factors of whose existence science is not yet aware."

Cancer of the Lung 1930 to 1960: A Review, by R. H. Rigdon and Helen Kirchoff. Reprint from Texas Reports on Biology and Medicine, Vol. 19, No. 3, pp. 465 to 513, Fall, 1961, The University of Texas, Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas. An objective study aided by a grant from the Tobacco Industry Research Committee.

"The question: Is Cancer of the Lung actually on the increase—and if so to what extent? remains unanswered. . . . Dorn in 1954 said there was no reliable data related to it and the answer must be largely a matter of opinion."

Current Knowledge of Tobacco and Health, by Robert C. Hockett, Ph.D., Associate Scientific Director, Tobacco Industry Research Committee. 20 pp. pamphlet published by the TIRC, 150 E. 42nd St., N. Y. 17, N. Y.

"If this is so (that cigarette smoking causes cancer) it ought to be possible to make a simple direct experimental demonstration of the fact. Actually this has not been accomplished, although many studies have been undertaken with this object."

Science Looks at Smoking by Eric Northrup, medical journalist. Coward-McCann, Inc., New York. 128 page paperback book.

"I have smoked for forty years . . . the question of whether or not to give up smoking has been a persistent issue in many minds . . . the case against tobacco is derived mostly

from statistical associations and some experimental work with animals. A valid interpretation of its significance requires specialized knowledge that is generally outside the province of the layman"—Introduction by Dr. Harry S. N. Greene, chairman, Department of Pathology, Yale University.

Not Favorable to Cigarette Smoking

Smoking and the Public Interest a report by Consumers Union, Mount Vernon, New York, 222 page paperback with index. \$1.50. (\$1 to subscribers of Consumers Reports).

"Parents would be wise to read Consumers Union Report on Smoking so that they can influence their children before it is too late"
—Benjamin Spock, M.D.

Cigarettes and Health by Pat McGrady, Science Editor for American Cancer Society. 20 page pamphlet published by the Public Affairs Pamphlets, 22 E. 38th St., New York 16, N. Y., 25 cents.

"America's young people appear to be smoking earlier and heavier than ever before . . . the lower their academic goals, the less education their parents had and the less the students take part in sports and other activities, the more they smoke."

Cigarette Smoking and Cancer, a new booklet by the American Cancer Society, 521 West 57th St., New York 19, N. Y.

"For American men the chances of dying during the peak years of their careers and family responsibilities are almost twice as great for heavy cigarette smokers as for non-smokers."

In Congress

In Congress, Senator Maurine B. Neuberger of Oregon, wants the government to put a curb on cigarette advertising. But the politicians shrink from the powerful tobacco lobby and prospects of cutting off a large source of taxes. No bills have been introduced. The Senator thinks the proper tactic would be for the Government to educate and warn the consuming public. She is author of *Smoke Screen*, a 151 page analysis of charges and countercharges, just published by Prentice-Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J.

According to items in recent issues of *The Congressional Record* the tobacco industry has announced a decision to discontinue advertising in college newspapers. The reason given is that smoking is an adult habit. Tobacco ads, in the past, have accounted for forty percent of national ads in college publications.

The *Record* also states that Kansas has approved a nonsmoker's policy by the Great American Reserve Insurance Company which provides that the beneficiary of a nonsmoker may get a bonus as high as 20 percent. Two other companies offer lower rates to nonsmokers.

Suggestions by Laity

The lay people of the Richmond, Virginia, diocese have been invited by their Bishop to submit recommendations for consideration at the diocese's fourth synod to be held at the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council.

Bishop John J. Russell of Richmond in a public letter said: "I cordially invite and urge our laymen and women to kindly make their suggestions regarding matters they feel will be helpful to the Church."

Bishop Russell said recommendations from the laity are to come through the Diocesan Councils of Catholic Men and Women. They will be "carefully considered by the official committees and if consonant with the general laws of the Church and deemed practical and useful, will be adopted."

The presidents of the two lay councils, along with the boards of the two groups, will consider lay recommendations and submit final conclusions to the central committee for the synod.

A "synod" is a meeting of the priests of a diocese, presided over by the bishop, which adopts legislation affecting the Church within the diocese. The last one in the Richmond diocese was in 1933.

Chairman Diocesan Committee for the Promotion of Christian Unity

In order to help its readers become better acquainted with the complex work of the various diocesan officials in the Bishop's Office, the Chancery, PROGRAM & TRAINING presents this interview with Right Rev. Msgr. F. Harold Nott, of the Diocese of Richmond, Va., Chairman of the Committee for the Promotion of Christian Unity.

1. What is the work of the Chairman of the Committee for the Promotion of Christian Unity?

It must be assumed that the final responsibility for formulating policies and outlining conditions by which priests and laymen meet with our separated brethren must rest with the Bishop of the Diocese. However the Diocesan Chairman endeavors to coordinate the many phases of this important program through his committee of priests. These priests are stationed in different sections of the Diocese which provides good coverage, especially in the heavily populated areas. At present we do not have any laymen on the Committee.

The Chairman is particularly interested in assigning speakers for the many invitations requested by Protestant and Jewish groups. This could be difficult were it not for the willingness on the part of the priests to form good contacts in their respective areas and fulfill the speaking engagements offered them. Since the closing of the first session of the Second Vatican Council, Most Rev. John J. Russell, Bishop of Richmond and Most Rev. Ernest L. Unterkoefler, Auxiliary Bishop of Richmond have had many requests extended them to appear before ministerial associations and lay church organizations. The publicity given these occasions greatly encourages others to ask for speakers.

2. What are some of the Problems of the Chairman?

At the present time no real problems have arisen. The priests actively participating in the work are prudent and tactful in arranging engagements, which eliminates much misunderstanding that might arise over doctrinal differences.

3. What could a parish men's organization, with its resources of leadership and lay apostolic mission, do to participate in and benefit by the work of the Committee?

The men's organization should work under the direction of its priest moderator. The moderator should exercise care in selecting speakers, especially since this is a new program and policies are not clearly defined.

We would like to suggest other areas in which men have been engaged with good success. A group visited each home in three small towns and introduced themselves as representatives of the local Catholic church. If agreeable they left pamphlets containing Catholic information.

Other groups arranged for the people in the community to visit the church and were given guided tours. One parish group in a small city met with other groups representing the churches in the community for the purpose of discussing housing, decent literature, race relations and other problems affecting the locality. Our laymen should welcome opportunities to serve on civic programs. Many times they will be approached with questions when the person is reluctant to ask a priest.

4. What links has the Diocesan Chairman and his Committee for Christian Unity with national or larger organizations?

Since the work of Christian Unity is so new and not much information has been published relating to policies for guiding the laymen, it can be assumed there is

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Sharing in the Council

Participation has lately become a "must" word in the Catholic vocabulary. Everyone—or almost everyone—says amen when liturgists speak of congregational participation in the Mass. The National Council of Catholic Men now enjoys so much prestige almost everywhere that one can now speak seriously about participation by U.S. laymen in the basic mission Christ gave His Church. What still needs deepening, however, is an awareness on the part of all American Catholics that the Church has entered into an Ecumenical Council.

Our bishops, of necessity, realize this fact—and understand what it demands of them. In the nine months since the close of the first session, on December 8, 1962, they have devoted much time and energy to reviewing and evaluating the lengthy documents to be discussed (at the second session). In their ears are Pope John's words: "It is the sacred duty of the bishops to employ greatest diligence in the work of the Council."

In other countries, this episcopal effort took the form of joint study and discussions held at regular intervals. The bishops of several European nations, for example, worked on a fixed schedule providing for systematic review of all major themes yet to be tackled or decided in Vatican II. Elsewhere, local hierarchies have focused on specific questions. Their hope is to contribute to the Council the fruit of their study and special insight into such topics as the apostolate in non-Christian societies, educational activities in the Church, Church-State relations, and the emerging issues posed by ecumenical dialogue.

All this leaves untouched, however, the responsibility of other groups in the Church as the Council resumes its formal meetings. Speaking to the delegates at a Holy Name Society convention in Buffalo, on August 23, Francis Cardinal Spellman stated that "the Second Vatican Council has already proved to be an event of momentous consequence for the Church and for the world," one that "has caught the imagination of men everywhere." The cardinal then noted that "the ultimate goal of this Council is the reunion of all Christians." But this work, he insisted, "is not for the Pope alone to accomplish, nor for the Fathers of the Council, nor for the priests and nuns and brothers. It is for all members of Christ's Church."

Cardinal Spellman's eloquent call for lay engagement in furthering the work of the Council gives concrete application to a profound theological truth. All Catholics are in fact "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation" (I Pet. 2:9). If, as the Dutch hierarchy once declared in a pastoral letter, "the Council is a sacrament," it can perhaps be said that it is one in which all should participate.

The months and years ahead, as conciliar debate yields to the hard labor of implementing conciliar decrees, will surely make demands on all of us. For, in Cardinal Spellman's words, "let no mistake linger in your minds, ours is a time of renewal, a time of rebirth." It is a time, too, that requires all "to be imbued with a spirit of courage and enthusiasm and optimism, that spirit which shone forth so nobly in the last two Supreme Pontiffs and which marks the beginning of the reign of our new Holy Father."

If, indeed, one holds with Cardinal Spellman that it is "no exaggeration to say that ours is pre-eminently the age of the layman in the Church," then one must also see that the fact of the Council is one the layman cannot ignore. His sense of participating in its every phase can and must be fostered from the pulpit, in the classroom and through the Catholic press.

—America, Sept. 7, 1963

Hammer and Nails

Imagine a group of men who conduct discussions of papal encyclicals, raise the level of contributions to the parish Sunday collection, sing hymns at their meetings, call their pastor weekly to see if any repairs to church or rectory are needed, organize family discussion groups, stage successful campaigns to enlist and hold competent teachers for their children—and do a lot of other things.

They are the Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Victory parish in suburban Cincinnati. The Cincinnati Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men cited them as the "most outstanding" in the archdiocese.

The group has thirteen regular committees and three "Committee Whips" who act as administrative assistants

to the president. Committees include Education, Decent Literature, Social Action, Family Life, Legislation, Youth, Dances, Programs, Raffle, Religious Activities, Organization and Development, and Hammer and Nails.

"Hammer and Nails" is a relatively new committee charged with maintenance and minor repairs around parish buildings. In the past summer, for example, they painted the third floor of the new parish school.

Typical of committee work is that of the Religious Activities Chairman. He attends and promotes attendance at Masses through the week, promotes enthronement of the Sacred Heart in parish homes and prepares commentators for dialogue Masses.

New members of the Holy Name Society are introduced individually and formally inducted. They sign a register at their first meeting and are treated as guests. Because they are quickly placed on committees they come back.

One of the chief elements in the society's selection for archdiocesan honors was the quality of its programs. In the past year, for example, programs included talks on Marriage and Family Life, the Lay Apostolate, Communism, Alcoholism, the Missions, and Juvenile Delinquency. At one meeting, a debate was staged between two lawyers on the subject of enforcement of laws against obscenity.

Other recent activities include:

Trophies to the eighth grade boy and girl cited by the school for improved achievement.

Transportation for a teacher not otherwise able to reach the parish school.

Parish conference on Federal aid to education.

Contact with eight local colleges in a teacher recruitment drive.

Lay advisory council on education to consult with the pastor and principal of the school.

Physical fitness program for the school, with 750 out of some 900 pupils taking part.

Promote subscriptions to the archdiocesan newspaper.

Cana conferences and Mr. and Mrs. discussion clubs.

The society is also working for safer road conditions in the community; using modern methods to tabulate Sunday collections; a parish calendar of events to avoid conflicts.

The society averages a hundred men at a meeting—and naturally is very popular with the Pastor.

February is Catholic Press Month

The encouragement of more Catholics to read Catholic publications is one of the most pressing needs of our times.

It is important that we use February, Catholic Press Month, as a time especially to help Catholic publications, as far as possible reach all Catholics in the United States.

The Catholic press, for most adults, is the most practical and readily available source of information about the Church.

Current statistics indicate that something like 30% of Catholic homes have no Catholic reading matter whatever coming into them regularly.

To introduce potential readers to Catholic publications in a most forceful way, to promote the Catholic Press in general and your diocesan press in particular, to initiate an effective magazine rack where possible, to participate in the observance of Catholic Press Month, we suggest that you set up

A Catholic Press Exhibit

1. Your Pastor might be willing to declare a Catholic Press Week in the parish. The editor of your diocesan paper would undoubtedly help.
2. An exhibit of Catholic papers and magazines and a pictorial display of the steps taken in publishing a diocesan newspaper could be displayed.
3. In conjunction with the exhibit, your organization might present as a speaker the editor of the diocesan paper or some other editor. For your February meeting—or breakfast—you might call upon a Catholic newspaper editor as the main speaker.

A Press Month Information Kit prepared by the Catholic Press Association offers complete details on operating a press exhibit as well as other activities for Catholic Press Month. Address, 6 East 39th Street, New York 16, New York.

The kit, which costs \$1.00, contains a poster, a fact sheet and other material. The CPA asks that payment be sent with order.

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very little activity on the national level. Nevertheless, within the present structure of the national organizations there are many opportunities offered the laymen to spread good-will and live a Christian way of life. The following are some suggestions we believe may be helpful within the national organization and its affiliates.

One may suggest that men of the National Council of Catholic Men would revive the custom of neighborhood visitation. In the South one is amazed to hear that a newly located family in the parish has received from five to six calls from neighbors inviting them to join their church. At least we could welcome the Protestants and Catholics and extend an invitation to visit the Catholic Church. The Nocturnal Adoration Society could be requested to offer part of the hour for the promotion of Christian Unity. City and rural areas can be visited by the men as representatives of the Church. The men also might have dinners together, for example, the Holy Name Society and a Protestant or Jewish organization.

For a New Baby

For six years now the Toledo Diocesan Council of Catholic Men, in cooperation with the Council of Catholic Women, has been mailing a congratulatory leaflet to parents, whether Catholic or not, of each new-born baby in the area. Approximately 100,000 leaflets have been mailed.

On the other front Planned Parenthood League of Toledo has been mailing leaflets to new parents suggesting they might wish to "plan" their family for the future—with advice on how to get birth control information.

The idea of the DCCM leaflet is to implant in parents, regardless of their religion, a Christian concept of parenthood and straight thinking on the use of contraceptives. It carries a quote from St. Francis de Sales: "The primary purpose of marriage is to people heaven with saints."

How about being the first in your area to use this idea? For a sample leaflet, write Toledo Diocesan Council of Catholic Men, 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo 2, Ohio.

The Farmer in the Dole

Farmers in the U.S. are only a small segment of the total population—8 percent—but they produce what is absolutely essential for everybody: food.

There is a painting in the Vatican Museum of a teacher saying, "I educate your children"; a doctor, "I heal your bodies"; a priest, "I cure your souls." But a farmer, holding the food he has grown, says "You would all be lost without me."

Nevertheless the trend continues to be away from the farm, and, in the country, an equally strong current to consolidate small farms into huge ones. Common sense—and the National Catholic Rural Life Conference—constantly argue in favor of the family-type farm. But the woes and problems of the small, independent farmer are many and difficult.

For effective results farmers must be organized for united action. There is still not a solid organization of farmers such as has existed for years among factory workers.

One program developed by the Federal government to help farmers help themselves is called Rural Areas Development (RAD). Operated through the extension services of state universities, RAD sets up County Committees composed of local people to attack local problems. There are 1900 such RAD committees throughout the nation.

To bring this movement to the attention of the people of the Peoria diocese, the National Catholic Rural Life Conference is sponsoring a series of RAD meetings in various parts of the area. Both the DCCM and the DCCW cooperate.

The DCCM, working through its Rural Life Committee, assists in organizing rural people and broadcasting their needs and problems to the 92 per cent of the population which too often thinks solely in terms of city plans and problems.

In *Program Manual for Parish Meetings*, Vol. VI, 1963, NCCM outlines a parish meeting on The Agricultural Revolution.

NCCM urges you to discuss at the next meeting of your organization the need for such a program for the better understanding of one of the nation's most basic problems.

Movies for Fun and Discussion

This is not about parish movies merely for entertainment. It is how to run a series of films and discuss them seriously after each show. People love it.

It is about a program which can be of great educational value to your parish. And it is a reminder that the net result will be only as good as the effort you put into planning and promotion.

The suggestions which follow may look difficult at first, but taken step by step they turn out to be easy and interesting.

1. **Organization.** Appoint a chairman—if possible someone experienced in audio-visual materials. The program could be set up for the whole season or for specified meetings.

Every film showing should have a spoken introduction and be followed by a planned discussion.

2. **Selection of Films.** From NCCM's film catalogue, select what you think are the most important subjects and would be the most interesting.

The film is not an end in itself but a stimulus to thought and discussion.

3. **Financing.** Set your prices low; just enough to cover expenses. The purpose is not to make money.

If your program calls for four or more films you can get the benefit of NCCM's special discount.

4. **Sponsorship and Cooperation.** Discuss your film series with other groups that might be interested (especially women).

This will help a lot in meeting costs.

5. **Bookings.** Send NCCM your entire film date schedule.

The National Council will schedule shipments of films to meet your dates.

6. **Payment.** You can pay in advance or arrange to be billed with each individual film shipment.
Or NCCM will bill you for the

total amount when your series is completed.

7. **Publicity and Promotion.** Most important is an extensive audience promotion campaign. Ask the Pastor to have it announced from the pulpit at all Masses and listed in the parish bulletin and on the bulletin board.

Get the parish school involved.

Have folders at each show so the audience will know what it's all about. This is essential to get an enthusiastic discussion or question and answer session after the showing.

8. **Program Notes.** Make sure the person presiding at each meeting is familiar with the film. If necessary, arrange a preview. This is particularly important if there is to be a guest speaker. Ask your viewers to make notes.

Don't let the discussion revolve too much around the technique of the film. Concentrate on ideas: what did the film do to you, etc.

9. **Showmanship.** Whether hall, auditorium or classroom, it should be suitable for the size of the expected audience—not too big. Check seating, acoustics, location of screen, ventilation, exits.

Test your showplace ahead of time with 16mm sound film. And have somebody who knows how to run your projector.

10. **Projection.** If you have to rent a 16mm sound projector make sure you know what the total costs will be.

You can rent it from a local photo shop.

11. **Returning Films.** Return films by parcel post no later than the day (preferably the morning) after each show.

Follow carefully any special shipping instructions so that the next user will get films on time.

For a catalog and additional details write NCCM, 1312 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C.

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

Christmas is Christ's day, Christ's Mass. But Sunday—every Sunday is *God's* day. It is a day of rest—rest in honor of God, and it should be a day of *merry* rest, for serving God should be something merry, not sad.

In the ever-mounting push of commerce there is hardly anything being worked on harder than to make Sunday just another day for business and trading.

A Sunday Code for Catholics on a pocket-size card has been published by the New York Sodality for Professional people.

A Sunday Code for Catholics

To Keep Holy The Lord's Day

- I. I will acknowledge that the essential work of the Lord's Day is the worship of God through the devout offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Therefore: I will spend Saturday evening in a way that will prepare me worthily for the special blessings of the Lord's Day.

I will arrive on time for Sunday Mass.

I will devoutly fulfill my role, co-offering the Mass with the priest, by use of the missal, and where possible by joining the congregation in dialogue or sung Mass.

I will adopt as my general practice the reception of the Holy Eucharist each Sunday.

I will attempt to foster deeper family unity through Sunday FAMILY worship.

I will join in prayers for peace and the conversion of Russia at the end of Mass.

I will support the Church in every way in which my talents and my resources can advance the cause of Christ.

- II. I will seek the rest and relaxation that befits the Lord's Day. Therefore:

I will not perform any unnecessary servile work.

I will not do any unnecessary buying, selling or shopping on Sunday.

I will use the leisure of this day to deepen my knowledge of my faith through mature Catholic reading and meditation.

I will seek to strengthen, within the family circle, the bonds of Christian family life and love.

- III. I will remember that my practice of this Code will lead others to a fitting observance of the Lord's Day.

The Sunday Code for Catholics is offered as a positive remedy to the gradual de-Christianization of the Lord's Day.

Each point is presented as a cure to current social ills in the observance of Sunday.

You can help restore Sunday to its proper place by observing these suggested practices and urging their adoption among your associates.

NCCM hopes your organization will mount a campaign for the proper observance of Sundays. Drop us a line for more information if you need it. In any event, let us know what you are doing. We will tell others and help spread the good word.

(Continued from page 2)

It is impossible, however, to cope with problems of social injustice, racism, religious bigotry, federal aid to education, Communism, materialism, bad literature, immoral films and foreign relations in the quiet of the living room, slippers on and perched in front of a television set. These are grave and weighty problems and they demand mature thought and an intelligent approach—the thought and the approach of our Catholic laity in unison with their ecclesiastical superiors.

The late Monsignor Ronald Knox said that Catholics must take an active role in making the world a better place in which to live "because the Gospel is essentially a leaven, a dynamic force in human affairs, and we shall be false to our whole vocation if we treat the imperfections of human society as if they were something that didn't matter."

Every Catholic layman is confronted with a momentous decision. He must stand up and be counted in the camp of Christ or in the camp of Satan. He must realize that no longer must he try to serve two masters. He must stand for truth or falsehood; for justice or injustice; for goodness or immorality. No longer may he be mediocre. He must in a word, either be with Christ or against Him.

Hot or cold? Which are you?

Books

Is God Dead or Alive?

The Modern God by Father Gustave Weigel, S.J. (Macmillan Co., 60 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N.Y., 168 pages, \$3.95).

This is a good book. All of Father Weigel's books are good books. *The Modern God* is for the man who likes to read and read deep. It is a work of erudition.

What is the problem created by a culture dominated by naturalistic secularism—but with its roots in religious belief? In his analysis of this phenomenon of our time, Father Weigel, an outstanding American Jesuit thinker, deals with the dilemma of man in the modern world caught in a conflict of faith beset with uncertainties about the existence of God.

Theologian Weigel concludes that God is dead for many men today. Without attempting to blueprint a plan for the future, he indicates that what is needed

to dispel apathetic belief and knit together divided loyalties is a "great faith resting on a big theology."

Prepare for College

Guide to Catholic Educational Institutions (Department of Education, N.C.W.C., Washington 5, D. C., 416 pages, \$2.95)

Gives indispensable information to students who intend to go to college, their parents, counsellors, priests, principals and all who advise Catholic youth, presenting all vital facts about each institution of higher learning, courses offered, degrees conferred, size of student body, faculty, special educational advantages, etc. Also whether there are residence halls, dormitories, dining facilities, etc. Shows all costs, tuition, room, board, laboratory, etc. Contains a complete section on Nursing.

The Guide also answers practical questions as: Why a Catholic College Education? Who Should Go to College? How Prepare for College. How Apply for Admission. How to Finance a College Education.

Obscenity

Censorship: Government and Obscenity by Terence J. Murphy (Helicon Press, Baltimore 2, Md., 294 pages, \$5.50).

Father Murphy, Executive Vice President of The College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn., and Ph.D. in Political Science from Georgetown University, in a fast-moving and readable treatise covers the tremendous and intricate problem of an ever increasing volume of obscene material ("sub-literature" he calls it) which has given the question of censorship an urgency heretofore unknown. Recent court decisions, Father Murphy points out, have further obscured and in fact discouraged legislative acts. He insists no solution will come unless the citizenry is aroused and acts, as they should, through elected representatives.

From the beginning of the modern period of governmental involvement in the control of obscenity with the celebrated case of *Ulysses* he traces the tortuous path of the definition of the word obscenity to the present modern test as adopted in the Roth case (1957): "Whether to the average person, applying contemporary community standards, the dominant theme of the material taken as a whole appeals to prurient interest."

In conclusion, he shows that it is possible to work out a constitutional, reasonable and effective means of safeguarding both the moral health and the legitimate freedoms of a pluralistic, democratic society.



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