

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC INFORMATION

James E. Murphy, Director - Area Code 219, Phone 284-7367

For immediate release:

64/52

Notre Dame, Ind., Aug. 4 -- Superiors of convents, schools and other Catholic institutions have an important role to play in carrying out the mind of the Church and its ecumenical Council, two thousand nuns were told here today (Tuesday).

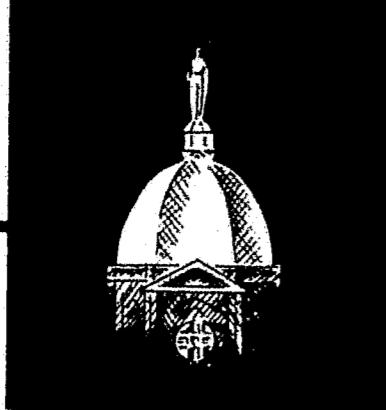
Rev. Robert S. Pelton, C.S.C., keynoting the eleventh Theological Institute for Local Superiors, said "an incomplete notion of obedience" on the part of superiors can be a real obstacle to the progress of the Church. "Too frequently," he said, "we have overlooked our own role of initiative in observing the mind of a high superior."

A former head of Notre Dame's theology department and recently named superior of St. George's College, Santiago, Chile, Father Pelton said conciliar theology encourages us "to exercise enlightened initiative in our apostolate. Who knows better the local circumstances of our apostolate but ourselves and our subjects who have responded to a particular call of Christ? The Spirit is moving in all of us."

Father Pelton cautioned against acting contrary to the desires of higher superiors. However, he said, "it is up to us to explore the local possibilities for the implementation of the spirit of the Council, and to prudently consult our own superiors before acting. Local superiors," he said, "being at the 'front line' of the apostolate, have marvellous opportunities to accomplish the burning desires of the Church. Too frequently in the Church what looks like obedience is in fact timidity or indolence. One day," he concluded, "Our Lord shall searchingly ask us about our many acts of omission."

"Our Religious Vocation as a Worshipping Community" is the theme of the Institute which continues through August 9th.

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For release in PM's, Tuesday, August 11th:

64/53

Notre Dame, Ind., Aug. 11 -- Democracy is "unworkable and even unthinkable" unless it is linked with a strong and free educational system, according to Rev. John E. Walsh, C.S.C., vice president for public relations and development at the University of Notre Dame.

Writing in his new book, Education and Political Power (published by The Center for Applied Research in Education, Inc., New York), Father Walsh says education prepares men "to rule themselves and to share and participate in governing." He observes that people in the new nations of Africa and Asia may not be "educationally ready" for democracy.

"An emerging country in which literacy is at a low level and in which education is neither sought nor valued cannot hope to govern itself democratically," the Catholic educator contends. "If the people do not understand the issues and do not have sufficient knowledge on which to cast their vote, democracy is not only meaningless, it could also be dangerous."

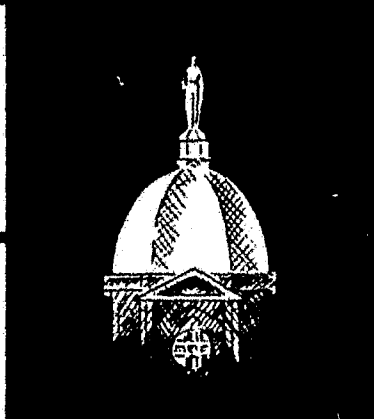
A former head of Notre Dame's education department and a specialist in the philosophy of education, Father Walsh stresses that education is an end in itself and should not be regarded "as a means or an instrument for advancing the democracy. Good education will, to be sure, strengthen democracy and give it deeper meaning and fuller life. But it does its best," he writes, "by being true to its own principles. Education loses its integrity whenever it is used exclusively, or even primarily, as a means toward something else."

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The educational process in a democracy can be operated and conducted "with equal effectiveness" by either public or private authority, the author maintains. He emphasizes that the "primary rights in the education of their children belong to the parents." It is the parents' right, he says, "to determine whether their youngsters will attend public or private schools" and which among the many kinds of the latter. Father Walsh cites the arguments for and against government aid to private education. The crux of the matter, in his view, is that "to be strong, education needs strong financial support. It is vital to the welfare of society that both public and private education be as strong as possible."

The Notre Dame vice president foresees an expansion in both the quantity and quality of education. "More people will be going to school, they will be in school longer, they will be specializing more deeply and they will be actively and even formally continuing their education throughout their adult lives," he predicts. He sees overspecialization as leading to the "dehumanization of man." To maintain his "wholeness," the educated man must be exposed to theology, philosophy, literature, poetry and the fine arts, and the methods and theories of the natural and social sciences, he insists.

Father Walsh cites religion, along with education, as another major force at work in society seeking to prevent man's dehumanization. "Knowledge and religion have been called the twin pillars of civilization and culture," he observes. "They are, indeed, twin pillars and, as such, they are not in any way incompatible. A spiritually rich and lasting civilization cannot stand on one alone. Education should not be so pre-occupied with knowledge that it neglects or ignores religion. In fact, religion is, in part, a form of knowledge and education is incomplete without it."



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For release in AM's, Thursday, August 13th:

64/54

Notre Dame, Ind., Aug. 12 -- Forty-two hundred young people representing high schools, colleges and seminaries throughout the country will attend the 21st national convention of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade at the University of Notre Dame August 27-30.

Members of the hierarchy of the United States, the Philippine Islands and China will join missionaries from many other lands at the sessions whose general theme is "A World United."

Thomas Cardinal Tien, exiled archbishop of Peking, will be the ranking prelate at the CSMC convention, and Bishop Leo A. Pursley of Fort Wayne-South Bend will serve as episcopal host.

Major convention addresses will be given by Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati, national CSMC president, and Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh, the keynote speaker.

Other convention speakers will include Bishop Carlo van Melckebeke, exiled head of the diocese of Ning-hsia in northwest China and Apostolic Visitor to the overseas Chinese; Bishop Epifanio Surban of Damagute, The Philippines; Rev. John J. Considine, M. M., director of the Latin American Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference; and Rev. John A. O'Brien, research professor of theology at Notre Dame.

The convention will also hear experts from many other countries and various mission enterprises on the needs of the Church at home and abroad. The sessions will emphasize the personal contributions young people can make to promote the Church's universal mission.

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| 64/52 | 8/7/ | Institute for Local Superiors |
| 64/53 | 8/11 | <u>Education and Political Power</u> by Rev. John E. Walsh, C.S.C. |
| 64/54 | 8/13 | Catholic Students' Mission Crusade, August 27-30, 1964 |