

## A COLLEGE OFFICIAL VIEWS CATHOLIC YOUTH

After what happened at Notre Dame last Saturday, it has been suggested that I would be more welcome at the Methodist Congress presently being held in Chicago. I thought all would be well, as I sat next to an archbishop at the game, but upon mature reflection, I have come to the conclusion that the whole thing was unavoidable. This is what comes of beating a Jesuit team the preceding week. In the clutch, we missed that extra support.

Seriously, I am delighted to be with you this evening, on an occasion so important for the future of Catholic Youth in America. I have been asked, as a college official, to give you my view of Catholic Youth. Naturally, my view is limited to the young men from all over America, whom I have known at Notre Dame. They are a restricted group, and perhaps a rather highly selective group, but I do think <sup>that they represent</sup> a good cross section of our potential leadership in many communities from coast to coast.

Looking down a long line of these young men—a line always strung out four years long—I must say first of all that my predominant feeling is one of pride and optimism. Maybe it is a good thing at meetings like this one to assess our strengths as well as our weaknesses. For what it is worth, here is our strength as I see it most graphically—the strong, virile, generous Catholic life of these young men. This strength is not something we create at the University. I hope

we do stimulate, strengthen and direct it, but this strong Catholic life has been nurtured in good Catholic families and good Catholic schools long before the boys come to Notre Dame. Let me give you an example.

We begin school every year with a freshman retreat. There were about 1,030 freshmen on campus this year. The retreat opened with a conference and confessions Tuesday night. At six-fifteen Mass Wednesday morning we counted the Communion. How many freshmen were at the rail?—936. Considering that about 6 to 10% of the 1,030 Freshmen are non-Catholic—that is about as close to a 100% good beginning as is possible. As we remarked above, this speaks well for the training these boys had before they came to Notre Dame. You can work with boys like this.

Do they live up to a good start like this? We think they get better. We hope so, or we should <sup>go</sup> be out of <sup>the youth</sup> business. But again, rather than talk about youth—let me tell you about real young men. If there is any gauge of the Catholic life of a person, young or old, we can use the test of how they are prepared to meet God—if their call comes unexpectedly and suddenly, ~~or~~ some day in the middle of the week—any day, any week, any month of any year.

We have our quota of such unexpected deaths among the 5,000 young men at Notre Dame. Let me tell you about a few of them that happened within months of each other and you <sup>may</sup> judge for yourselves, the degree of real Catholic life involved.

Ray Espenan was a New Orleans boy, a Navy veteran in World War II, winner of four football monograms, playing end as number two man under Leon Hart. He was a second semester senior, practice teaching in a South Bend high school when he slipped in a gymnastic demonstration one Wintry Monday afternoon and snapped his spinal cord.

I was at the hospital shortly after they brought him in. He was fully conscious, lying on a cart outside the operating room. "It looks very serious, Ray," I said, "is there anything I can do for you before they operate." "Oh, I'm O.K., Father," Ray answered, "I was at Mass and Communion this morning." He faced death fearlessly as it walked surely towards him during the next two days and died fearlessly with his lips moving in prayer, and his eyes on the crucifix.

Then there was Pat Thomas, a freshman from Southern Indiana. His life was snuffed out on Saturday night before Mothers' Day as he drove home to tell his mother about the unique present he had to offer her that year—a novena of Masses and Communions.

We still remember Joe Hailer of Los Angeles who was killed on a Saturday night while walking his girl back to St. Mary's College after a victory dance. He too had been at Mass and Communion that morning. He and Marie had stopped at the Grotto for a few hail Mary's after the dance, just minutes before the auto struck them.

Jack Donahue of Chicago was one of the best liked

men on campus, one of the student commanders in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, a senior law student.

He met disaster playing handball one Thursday afternoon in March—a slip, a fall, a fractured skull, a hemorrhage, and he never regained consciousness. But, he didn't have to, because he had served six-thirty Mass and received Holy Communion that morning—and every morning for weeks before that fatal day. He had written his young brother Tommy in his last letter—  
"Make Mass and Communion a daily habit and you can't miss."  
We're sure that Jack didn't miss either.

These are the first four boys that come to my mind. They are typical at least in this, that they died one after another these past few years, and unknowingly began the last day of their life with God at Mass and Communion. I think their deaths tell us the way they were living. Don't you think we can be optimistic about young people when we take four in a row like this and find such consistent evidence of virile, Catholic life?

Don't you think the lives they led give some indication of the depth of their faith and the love of God in their hearts. When I hear people viewing with alarm the youth of today, I leave the abstract order and review these four young men—Ray, Pat, Joe and Jack. I view them with pride rather than with alarm. Young men like this, young Catholic lives like these, <sup>this is</sup> are our strength.

It would be easy to stop here and rest on our laurels. But we will be more realistic if we admit that we have weaknesses as well as strengths—in the picture of Catholic youth. Certainly, we in Catholic colleges cannot consider our work done if we have produced a number of individuals with good Catholic principles and outstanding Catholic lives. The Church is a living organism. Catholics, even young Catholics, must assume their social as well as individual responsibilities in the Mystical Body of Christ.

Colleges must educate young Catholic students in the social as well as the individual aspects of the Christian life. We are doing better work along these lines today, but I must confess that many of our students are still too individualistic in their Catholic lives. <sup>To them</sup> Salvation means too exclusively their own salvation, and not nearly <sup>often</sup> enough, the salvation of the whole world.

How can we do better? Praying together is a good start. There are some very promising trends in the growth of the liturgical movement: <sup>at school.</sup> Working together in the apostolate will help too. Here too there are promising trends. Strangely enough, the inertia is two-sided. Generous as they are, individually good as they are, college students still think of themselves first and foremost, and of the group <sup>only</sup> ~~mainly~~ when necessary. I think we have to allow for more group activity—and here, it is often the educators who fail to create the

opportunity.

Too many of our student activities are faculty dominated, faculty planned, faculty executed. Then we ask, "Why don't we produce more leaders?" One would be tempted to <sup>in turn</sup> ask, "Where? Among the faculty?"

I found this strange phenomena after the war—some college officials were reluctant to allow students to assume even partial responsibility for some minor student activities, when these same students during the war, as officers in the Army, Navy and Marines had the total responsibility for the lives of hundreds of men and millions of dollars worth of equipment.

Perhaps I should now draw some conclusions, or at least draw to a conclusion, after this round of reflections.

Let it be this—we have some wonderful potential leadership among our young people today. Their good lives should inspire us to gamble on their good sense to the extent that we allow them to develop ~~a secure sense~~ of social responsibility and initiative. We can only do this by giving them every opportunity to organize and execute their own activities, even to make their own mistakes. The Church will never grow strong on spoon-fed youth. The Holy Eucharist is the Bread of the strong, it is the living sign of our life together in the Body of Christ. <sup>we encourage</sup> Let <sup>to</sup> our young people <sup>to</sup> eat daily of this Bread, <sup>to</sup> partake of this union, and then <sup>to</sup> work courageously in their own way, together, for the upbuilding of this Body <sup>of Christ, the Church,</sup> in the real world of every-day life.

## PROGRAM OF SESSIONS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 8:00 P.M.—Registration

Third National Catholic Youth Conference

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

**9:00 A.M.**

**Registration:** (Registration will continue throughout the Conference)

**Exhibits:** Gibson Main Ballroom

**10:00 A.M.**

The Victory Room

### **Organizational Meeting of The National Catholic Camping Association**

*Presiding:* The Most Reverend Sidney M. Metzger, D.D., Bishop of El Paso.

*Chairman:* The Very Reverend Monsignor Joseph E. Schieder, Director, Youth Department, NCWC, Washington, D. C.

*Speaker:* Sister David O'Leary, Winnetka, Illinois.

*Speaker:* The Reverend Louis F. Meyer, Assistant Archdiocesan Youth Director, St. Louis, Missouri.

*Discussion Period*

*Adoption of Constitution*

*Summary:* The Most Reverend Sidney M. Metzger, D.D., Bishop of El Paso.

**12:30 P.M.**

The Victory Room

### **The Camping Luncheon**

*Presiding:* The Most Reverend Sidney M. Metzger, D.D., Bishop of El Paso.

*Toastmaster:* The Reverend Harold S. Engel, Archdiocesan Youth Director, New York, N. Y.

*Speaker:* Dr. Gerald Burns, Executive Secretary, American Camping Association, Chicago, Illinois.

*Speaker:* The Right Reverend Monsignor James E. Dolan, Los Angeles, California.

*Remarks:* The Most Reverend John J. Mitty, D.D., Archbishop of San Francisco, Episcopal Chairman, Youth Department, NCWC.

**2:30 P.M.**

Parlors 8-9-10

### **The New Diocesan Directors Meeting**

*Presiding:* The Most Reverend Albert R. Zuroweste, D.D., Bishop of Belleville.

*Chairman:* The Very Reverend Monsignor William H. Merchant, Diocesan Youth Director, Salina, Kansas.

"The National Catholic Youth Office and You"

The Very Reverend Monsignor Joseph E. Schieder, Director, Youth Department, NCWC.

"An Explanation of the Four-Fold CYO Program—Its Value"

The Reverend Jerome E. Schmit, Diocesan Youth Director, Toledo, Ohio.

"A New Diocesan Director Speaks"

The Reverend Leonard E. Weber, Diocesan Youth Director, Crookston, Minn.

"Youth Wants the CYO—Well-Organized"

Miss Virginia Mulcahy, Baltimore, Maryland.

*Discussion Period*

*Summary:* The Most Reverend Albert R. Zuroweste, D.D., Bishop of Belleville.

### **8:30 P.M.**

The Roof Garden

#### **The Opening Plenary Session**

*Presiding:* The Most Reverend Karl J. Alter, D.D., Archbishop of Cincinnati.

*Chairman:* The Very Reverend Monsignor Joseph E. Schieder, Director, Youth Department, NCWC, Washington, D. C.

"Welcome to Cincinnati"

The Honorable Albert D. Cash, Mayor of Cincinnati.

"Welcome to Ohio"

The Honorable Frank J. Lausche, Governor of Ohio.

*Address of Welcome:* The Most Reverend Karl J. Alter, D.D., Archbishop of Cincinnati.

*Opening Address:* The Right Reverend Monsignor Howard J. Carroll, S.T.D., General Secretary, NCWC, Washington, D. C.

*Musical Selections:* The Cincinnati CYO Chorale Group.

Messrs. John Fehring and John Contadino, Directors.

*Keynote Address:* The Most Reverend John J. Mitty, D.D., Archbishop of San Francisco, Episcopal Chairman, Youth Department, NCWC.

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16**

### **9:00 A.M.**

**Registration:** (Registration will continue throughout the Conference)

### **10:00 A.M.**

St. Peter In Chains Cathedral

#### **The Solemn Pontifical Mass**

*Celebrant:* The Most Reverend Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Archbishop of Laodicea, Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

*Presiding at the Throne:* The Most Reverend Karl J. Alter, D.D., Archbishop of Cincinnati.

*Sermon:* The Most Reverend William T. Mulloy, D.D., Bishop of Covington.

*Address to Youth:* The Most Reverend Apostolic Delegate.

*N.B. At 9:15 A.M., all members of the Hierarchy and Clergy will vest at The Cathedral Rectory. Lay Delegates and Guests will assemble at The Cathedral. The Solemn Procession will move into the Cathedral promptly at 9:30.*



**2:00 P.M.**

The Roof Garden

**Youth in Action**

*Presiding:* The Most Reverend Michael J. Ready, D.D., Bishop of Columbus.

*Chairman:* The President of the National Council of Catholic Youth.

"Parish CYO"

Mr. Peter J. Randolph, Holy Trinity Parish, Cincinnati.

"Rural CYO"

Mr. William D. Fehn, Vice-President, Catholic Rural Youth Organization.

"Diocesan Council of Catholic Youth"

Miss Jeanne O'Brien, President Pro-Tem, Cincinnati Council of Youth.

"National CYO Week"

Mr. Albert Walter, President Fenwick Senior CYO Group.

**3:30 P.M.**

The Main Ballroom

**Presenting the National Council of Catholic Youth**

*Presiding:* The Most Reverend Emmet M. Walsh, D.D., Coadjutor Bishop of Youngstown.

*Chairman:* The Very Reverend Paul F. Tanner, Assistant General Secretary, NCWC, Washington, D. C.

"What The National Council of Catholic Youth Means to Youth"

The President of the National Council of Catholic Youth.

"What Is A Youth Council?"

Miss Mabel Shannon, Coordinator, German Leadership Project, National Social Welfare Assembly, New York.

"How the Council of Youth Functions on the Parish, Deanery and Diocesan Levels." The Very Reverend Monsignor Joseph E. Schieder, Director, Youth Department, NCWC.

"The National Council of Catholic Youth—An Historic Achievement."

The Reverend Carroll T. Dozier, Diocesan Youth Director, Richmond, Virginia.

*Summary:* The Most Reverend Emmet M. Walsh, D.D., Coadjutor Bishop of Youngstown.

**6:00 P.M.**

Parlors 8-9-10

NCYO Ladies Social and Buffet Dinner.

*Presiding:* The Ladies of the Staff, Cincinnati CYO Office.

**8:30 P.M.**

The Roof Garden

**Plenary Session**

*Presiding:* The Most Reverend Francis P. Keough, D.D., Archbishop of Baltimore, Chairman of the Administrative Board, NCWC.

*Chairman:* The Right Reverend Monsignor Frederick G. Hochwalt, Secretary General, National Catholic Educational Association, Washington, D. C.

"Youth and the Present World Crisis"

Major General John M. Devine, USA, Chief of the Armed Forces' Information and Education Division, The Department of Defense, Washington, D. C.

"A College Official Views Catholic Youth"

The Reverend Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., Executive Vice-President, Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, Indiana.

"The Challenge to Catholic Youth Leaders Today"

Mr. William H. Conley, Ph.D., Vice President in Charge of Studies, Seton Hall College, East Orange, New Jersey.

*Summary:* The Most Reverend Francis P. Keough, D.D., Archbishop of Baltimore.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

**9:00 A.M.**

**Registration:** (Registration will continue throughout the Conference)

**10:00 A.M.**

The Roof Garden Foyer

#### **Religion in the Catholic Youth Program**

*Presiding:* The Most Reverend Leo F. Dworschak, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Fargo.

*Chairman:* The Right Reverend Monsignor George J. Schuster, Diocesan Youth Director, Lincoln, Nebraska.

"Why The Lack of Religious Emphasis in the Catholic Youth Program?"

The Reverend Thomas J. Mardaga, Archdiocesan Youth Director, Baltimore, Maryland.

"Religious Activities Yes—But All Activities Religious"

The Reverend Thomas E. Lacey, Assistant Archdiocesan Youth Director, San Francisco.

"Develop the Religious Phase of the Catholic Youth Program by:

Catholic Youth Retreats

Pre-Cana Conferences

The Promotion of Vocations

A Parish Vocational Guidance Program"

The Reverend John McGrath, Diocesan Youth Director, Springfield, Illinois.

"Spiritual Preparation of Youth for Military Service"

The Reverend Paul L. O'Connor, S.J., Xavier University, Cincinnati.

*Discussion Period*

*Summary:* The Most Reverend Leo F. Dworschak, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Fargo.