

(Address given by the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., President, University of Notre Dame, at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Sunday, October 8, 1978)

I cannot recall exactly when it was that I first heard of the great work going on for human development here at St. Francis Xavier University, but it had to be at least forty years ago, long before developmental studies and cooperatives were popular pioneering work was going on at Antigonish. I had missionary friends from India who came here on furlough a quarter century ago and have been practicing what they learned here, ever since, with great profit to many people in Southeast Asia.

For all of these reasons, I am delighted to be here today, both to join this distinguished family and also to share with you a few thoughts on a new crusade that will be congenial to this place and its great work.

Just a year ago, I was sworn in, at the State Department in Washington, as a United States Ambassador to head up the U. S. team to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. This Conference, which will take place in Vienna next August and September, maybe the last of the great Mega Conferences, such as environment at Stockholm, food in Rome, habitat in Vancouver, population in Bucharest, women's rights in Mexico City, trade and then desertification in Nairobi, law of the sea in Caracas and Geneva. All of these conferences spoke in one way or another to the problem of human development. Perhaps this latest forthcoming conference can be the capstone that seriously sets us on our way to eliminate the worst aspects of world poverty before the beginning of the new millennium, the year 2000.

the human pettiness and selfishness, the national pride and religious prejudice, the cultural imperialism and color consciousness that have caused our beautiful spaceship earth to be so humanly unbeautiful and unjust and unpeaceful today. A new millennium is possible.

Everything we learn and know and teach in our universities today would point in the direction of a better world. There is only the agony of human perversion that somehow resists the better urgings of our spirit. We might well ask with St. Paul, "Who will deliver me from the body of this death?" I trust that we will be ready to accept the same answer that St. Paul received, "The grace of God through Our Lord, Jesus Christ."

It is because of this larger answer, beyond science and technology and human perversion, that we begin yet another half century at this great Catholic University of St. Francis Xavier. May our faculty and students share ever more, and contribute ever more, to the realization of man's higher hopes for a better tomorrow, a new millennium awaiting creation.