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Philosophers Meet And Organize At C. U. Of America

(By N. C. W. C. News Service).
Washington, Jan. 8.—Representatives of forty Catholic colleges and universities in all parts of the United States met at the Catholic University of America here Tuesday and formed The American Catholic Philosophical Association. The object of the new body, as stated in the constitution adopted at the meeting, is "to promote study and research in the field of philosophy, with special emphasis on Scholastic Philosophy."

The Association will be incorporated in the District of Columbia as a learned society. It was voted that one of its chief activities will be the publication of a quarterly review of philosophy.

Msgr. Pace First President
The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward A. Pace, Professor of Philosophy and Vice-Rector of the Catholic University, was elected the first president by acclamation. Other officers chosen are: Vice-President, the Rev. John M. Fox, S.J., Professor of Ethics at Holy Cross College, Secretary-Treasurer, the Rev. Dr. James H. Ryan, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the Catholic University; members of Executive Council for one year, the Rev. Bernard Vogt, O.F.M., of Butler N. J., and the Rev. Charles Miltner, C.S.C., of Notre Dame University; members for two years, the Rev. John McCormick, S.J., of Marquette University, Milwaukee, and the Rev. Ignatius Smith, O.P., of the Dominican College, Washington; members for three years, the Rev. Jules A. Balsano, S.S., of the Sulpician Seminary, Washington, and the Rev. P. Selgried, of Overbrook Seminary, Philadelphia.

Persons throughout the country engaged in philosophical work, students, and in general those interested in philosophical studies are to form the membership of the new Association. In addition, there is provision for colleges, universities and societies to become members, as well as eminent persons of other countries. Dues of members are to be as follows: Constituent, \$5 annually; Fellows, \$3; Associate, \$5; Institutional, \$10, and Life, \$100.

Welcoming the philosophers to the meeting, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas J. Shahan, Rector of the Catholic University, declared: "You are an ideal body of men to enter upon the practical coordination of the situation that faces us in the United States from the viewpoint of the 'altissima causa'."

Need of Such An Organization
Dr. Pace, who presided, discussed "The Organization and Work of a National Philosophical Association" in the opening paper. Dealing with the necessity for such an organization, he said:

"During the past half century, philosophical inquiry has grown rapidly in keenness and earnestness. It has been spurred on by the very thing that at one time seemed to threaten its annihilation—I mean by the advance of those sciences whose methods lay claim to utmost exactness and whose achievements contribute so much to the welfare of humanity. Philosophy, in consequence, has been obliged to determine more accurately its own province, to scrutinize its methods and to test the value of its principles. It has been led, if not driven, to take account of new aspects presented by the older sciences and of new problems set before it by sciences which have sprung into existence and grown to power within our day. Philosophy must reckon with the findings of biology, psychology and sociology as it never reckoned before. It must discover a meaning for the new theories of physical nature by which our idea of the universe has been transformed. And while doing all this it must continue its work upon problems which are peculiar to it in the fields of epistemology and metaphysics."

Declaring that adherents of certain doctrines have "had nothing to offer when the need arose for counsel and for principles that might serve as the basis of reconstruction" and that "their philosophy had no light to shed on practical questions involving the meaning and practice of such things as justice and right, freedom and responsibility, for the simple reason that for materialism and mechanistic determinism, those terms are obsolete," Dr. Pace continued:

"The press undoubtedly has a right to criticize the multiplication of laws. This sort of remedy is worse than useless because it renders the enforcement of law more difficult and, in particular, because it makes no attempt to develop the spirit of observance. The philosophy of legislation certainly needs to be rewritten. Without it the finest philosophy of the State will remain an abstract, ineffectual theory."

"If it is true that, as some competent authorities declare, American education has not only failed of its purpose as a producer of good citizenship but is also responsible for the increase of lawlessness, it evidently is necessary to ascertain the reason. And this, undoubtedly, lies deeper down than any defect of or-

War By Holy Name Society Declared On Indecent Plays

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
New York, Jan. 12.—War was declared upon the abuse of the name of Christ on the theater stage, in a sermon delivered to Holy Name men at St. Patrick's Cathedral recently.

"Have you attended the theater lately?" queried the Rev. Eugene J. Callahan of Manhattan, who delivered the sermon. "They come out night after night in cold blood and abuse the Name of Jesus on the stage. For the cheap sensation of shock, they insult thousands of playgoers—regardless of Creed. 'Artistic profanity,' they tell us, but I recognize no difference between this and the foul talk of the street. The playwright will say that this language is necessary for the realistic interpretation of character, but it is no more necessary than the infliction of real pain upon the actor who must register agony."

"The Holy Name Society stands squarely in opposition to the profane use of the name of Jesus. We have no quarrel with the theater as such, but when the theater degrades itself by profaning the sacred Name, it insults our God and we resent the insult. Any mark of disrespect shown to the names of our parents and friends, heroes, statesmen and public benefactors is indignantly resented, and to a greater degree do we resent the disrespect the theater seems to have for the Name of Jesus."

"One hundred thousand men of New York have protested against this abuse of the Holy Name, but for the most part the producer and not the actor has turned a deaf ear to us. Priests have withdrawn their faces, but their weak answer has been flippant and anonymous evasions. We tell the men in the theater who are responsible for this abuse to stop it. As citizens of this State and members of the Holy Name Society we will wage war until this abuse of the Name of Jesus is put down."

Organization, curriculum, or method of instruction. It is to be sought and found in the philosophical principles which underlie all education.

"It can no longer be said with truth that American thinkers are wholly absorbed in the special sciences. Many of them, on the contrary, have attacked the most difficult of our problems, and made valuable contributions to our literature. We cannot afford to lose contact with such an influence upon the thought of our country and winning recognition throughout the world."

New Scholasticism and Modern Thought

At the afternoon session, six invited speakers took part in a symposium of discussion on "What the New Scholasticism Has to Offer Modern Thought." An audience which included many guests, among them several Sisters, heard the papers. Discussing the subject from the field of social ethics, the Rev. Charles Miltner, C.S.C., Ph. D., Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame, said:

"Neo-Scholastic writers, following out the broad and fundamental lines of development laid down by Pope Leo XIII, especially in the field of social ethics, having succeeded in showing that the basic principles of Scholasticism are as effective in solving actual ethical problems of our day, with its greatly varied and vastly complex economic and political conditions, as they were in the relatively simpler social organizations of the Thirteenth century."

"These principles have, in large part at least, been already set forth already offered to modern thought not only in such documents as the immortal Encyclical of Leo XIII, in the war-time recommendations of Benedict, and in the more recent American Bishops' Pastoral Letter, but they have also been admirably worked out in some detail in the writings of many Scholastic publicists in this country and abroad. On the proper limits and legitimate functions of civil authority, on the grounds and necessity of property rights, on the nature, aims and control of education and on parental rights and duties generally, on equitable relationships between employers and employees, on trade unions, wage contracts, strikes, fair prices, just interest—in a word, on the ethical aspects of the many problems which the modern industrial order and modern decadent religious ideals have either reemphasized or brought into being, and which figure prominently in the many plans for social reconstruction since the war—on all these questions there are not wanting clearly stated pronouncements of the New Scholasticism, pronouncements which, though ignored by some, are nevertheless well received by many others."

Others who took part in the symposium were the Rev. Francis P. Selgried, Ph. D., of Overbrook Seminary, Philadelphia; the Rev. Jules A. Balsano, S.S., Ph. D., of the Sulpician Seminary, Washington; the Rev. P. J. Waters, Ph. D., of St. John's Seminary, Brighton, Mass.; the Rev. Alphonse M. Schwittalla, S. J., Ph. D., of St. Louis University; the Rev. Joseph T. Barron, Ph.D., of St. Paul Seminary, and the Rev. F. V. Corcoran, Ph.D., of Keenick Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo.

Need Of Priests In Belgium Made Call To Campaign

Organized Movement in Four Principal Cities of Cardinal Mercier's Archdiocese To Awaken Vocations
By Rev. J. Vander Heyden,
(Louvain Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service).

Louvain, Jan. 1.—The diminution of the number of students in the diocesan theological seminaries noticeable in one or two Belgian dioceses is prompting a campaign, inaugurated simultaneously in the four principal cities of Cardinal Mercier's diocese with a view to awaken the people's interest in sacerdotal vocations. The inaugural work took the shape of a Pontifical Benediction celebration upon the same night in S. Gudula's Church, Brussels, by His Eminence, Cardinal Mercier, in Our Lady's Church, Antwerp, by His Excellency the Papal Nuncio Msgr. Micara, in St. Peter's Church, Louvain and in the Mechlin Cathedral, by the Cardinal's Auxiliary Bishops. Eminent pulpit orators delivered sermons on the priesthood at those ceremonies.

The steady increase of educational institutions conducted by secular priests, the needs of the social service field and also the greater call for priests to do parochial work in the ever expanding parishes, necessitate more clergymen than heretofore; but the number of seminarians does not increase in proportion and there is even one seminary in which there are but one half of the candidates of pre-war times.

Economic Crisis Responsible.
The religious communities meanwhile must enlarge their quarters, to make room for the numerous aspirants to the service of God in religion.

That seems to corroborate the view shared in by many that the economic crisis is responsible—to a considerable extent at least—for the crisis of vocations for the secular clergy.

The Religious Orders ask neither board nor tuition fees from their candidates during the six and seven years of immediate preparation for the priesthood in the diocesan seminaries, however. Belgian parents are subjected to heavy expenses for board, tuition, books, etc. with the prospect of having partly to support their sons even for long years after ordination. For the material situation of the secular clergy both in the parochial ministry and in the colleges is working on misery. Assistant priests with a yearly income from their charge of \$500, out of which they have to pay for board and lodging, are in minority. The most of them do not have more than \$300 from all sources to live on, whilst college professors, whose years of study are lengthened owing to the special preparation for their task "are paid less than a lampighter," as one newspaper put it.

If under those conditions all parents do not share the feelings of the father who declared to a friend: "I keep my son from becoming a priest because I do not want him to be a beggarly wretch," is a proof that Belgian fathers and mothers are plentifully withal who, even at the price of great monetary sacrifices, consider it an honor and a privilege to have a son a priest. That their numbers may not diminish but increase, the campaign for more priests has been launched and its first result will be so it is hoped, the foundation of the Association of Sacerdotal Vocations. A draft of statutes has been sent to numerous clergymen for examination.

Will Inquire Into Causes.
The projected association will inquire into the causes of the diminution of vocations, seek a way to combat these causes and means to cultivate and assist vocations.

An annual Priests' Day, frequent sermons on the sublimity of the priesthood and on the blessedness of having a priest in the family, articles in the press against a mentality unfavorable to the priesthood, collections and subscriptions for a fund to enable gifted youths to study and develop latent vocations are among the means to which the draft of the statutes for the Association of Sacerdotal Vocations proposes to have recourse.

Cleveland Chosen For Next Industrial Problems Convention

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Cleveland, Jan. 8.—The 1926 meeting of the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems will be held in this city June 25 and 26, according to announcement just made. The dates were selected by the Executive Committee of the Conference after consultation with the Rt. Rev. Joseph Schrembs, Bishop of Cleveland, who invited the organization to meet here. It is believed the attendance at the meeting will be greatly increased because the dates selected are the Friday and Saturday immediately following the International Eucharistic Congress in Chicago.

This year's meeting of the Conference will celebrate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the famous Encyclical on the Condition of Labor, issued by the late Pope Leo XIII. Bishop Schrembs has appointed the Rev. C. Hubert LeBlond, Diocesan Director of Charities, Chairman of the local committee for the meeting of the Conference.

Fr. Cohill's Last Report Received After His Death

Missionary's Own Account of His Service To American Sailors Of The U. S. S. Huron—Thanked By Protestant Chaplain

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Washington, Jan. 12.—The Rev. W. J. Cohill, young Catholic missionary in China whose death was reported in the N. C. W. C. News Service recently, frequently acted as correspondent for the News Service and, shortly before he died, had mailed a news story from Shanghai, which arrived here after his death. In this story it is related how Father Cohill, prevented from returning to his mission station at Kalfeng, was taking advantage of the opportunities for service at Shanghai by ministering to the religious needs of Catholic seamen on an American warship. A letter accompanying the story tells of his other activities and promised further news stories—a promise which the writer will not now keep.

The letter, written hastily with a lead pencil, is mute testimony of the conditions of life under which Father Cohill spent his last days. It reads: "Held up here (Pengpu, Anhwei) owing to civil war between here and Kalfeng. Will send you a story next week of my work here as a volunteer military chaplain. Over 600 wounded Chinese soldiers—baptized twelve, nine of them died. Am cooperating with doctors and medical students from the Jesuit Aurora University, Shanghai."

Mass on American Ship
The story of Father Cohill's visits to the U. S. S. Huron at Shanghai reads as follows:

"The Church Pennant, the only flag which the United States Navy permits to be flown from the same mast above the Stars and Stripes, was hoisted one Sunday morning recently on board the U. S. S. Huron, the flagship of Admiral Williams, of the Asiatic Squadron, in Shanghai harbor, when the Rev. Father William J. Cohill, an American Catholic missionary stationed at Kalfeng in the Province of Honan, China, at the invitation of the Huron's Protestant chaplain, Lieutenant Commander Thomas L. Kirkpatrick, celebrated Mass for 270 Catholic members of the ship's crew of 900 men and officers."

"When Father Cohill, who came over 600 miles to Shanghai for dental treatment, was prevented from returning immediately to his mission by the Civil War along the Shanghai-Nanking-Peking Railroad, he came aboard the "Huron" and offered his services to the Protestant chaplain. His offer was warmly accepted by Chaplain Kirkpatrick, and a record breaking group of Catholics not only assembled on the fore-castle for Father Cohill's Mass, but also to receive Holy Communion."

Thanked By Protestant Chaplain
"On the day following Father Cohill's first Sunday Mass on board the "Huron," Chaplain Kirkpatrick wrote the missionary priest as follows: "On behalf of the officers and men of the ship, and especially on behalf of those who are members of the Roman Catholic Church, I wish to thank you for your great kindness in coming out to hear confessions, and to conduct services yesterday. May I add to this a word of appreciation on my own behalf. As the chaplain of this floating parish I greatly appreciate this evidence of your interest in the men of our Navy and in the Kingdom of Christ."

"Your offer to come out again this week is greatly appreciated, and if satisfactory to you we will be looking for you. The same arrangements will hold good for this week end—you to use my stateroom for confessions from 4 o'clock on Saturday, and to remain aboard Saturday night, with an 8:30 service on Sunday morning."

"During the week Father Cohill came aboard the "Huron" and mingled freely with the men and officers, reminding the Catholics of the opportunity to hear Mass aboard the vessel and of receiving the Sacraments. That Father Cohill's personal exhortation was of much benefit may be gathered from another letter of Chaplain Kirkpatrick to the missionary in which he writes:

"Your personal interest in coming out several times during the week and in getting acquainted thus with individuals so that you might remind them of their duties to the Church has been productive of much good."

"I hope that you'll always come aboard when you find the "Huron" near you, and I feel sure that the commanding officer of any of our ships will welcome you at any time."

Hymns Played By Huron's Band
"During both Masses, hymns were played by the Huron band, composed of Filipino Catholics."

"Special regulations govern the ship during the time that the Church Pennant is flying from the masthead. The Pennant itself is hoisted to a position—above the Stars and Stripes—that is accorded to the flag of no nation no matter how friendly, to the pennant of no captain nor admiral even on his own ship, and not even to the flag or pennant of the President of the United States if he should be aboard the ship during the time of church service."

"As long as the Church Pennant remains hoisted, no smoking is permitted on the vessel, and a special silence is observed."