ACTIVITY WIDE AS 26,000 OPEN THEIR SCHOOL BOOKS

Tells School Value In Catholic Press

President of C. P. A. Calls Upon Educators To Promote Reading of Diocesan Papers; Cites Many Advantages Gained by Students

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(Written for N.C.W.C. School Supplement)

As president of the Catholic Press Association I welcome the opportunity to explain about the Catholic Press of America.

I venture to say at the outset that relatively few have any appreciation of the accomplishments or problems of the publications making up the Catholic Press Association.

At the recent twenty-eighth annual convention of this Association in New Orleans we received another inspiring message from the Holy Father with his blessing Besides a greeting was received from the Apostolic Delegate to the United States and we were honored by the presence of six Archbishops and Bishops A number of the Hierarchy sent message of praise and encouragement

All of which interest is most encouraging as it demonstrates the importance of our efforts towards developing a strong Catholic Press in America.

PRELATES AID OF PRESS

Doubtless, you are all aware of these endorsements from high church ecclesiastics. But do you know what is being done by the Bishops of America for the press or how the press utilizes this assistance?

One of the departments of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in Washington is devoted to the press. The Most Rev John Mark Gannon, Bishop of Erie, is Episcopal Chairman of the Department, the chief activity of which is running the N C W C News Service This service is set up to serve the Catholic newspapers of the United States with a world-wide Catholic news gathering agency It has correspondents throughout the world supplying it with material then furnished to the subscribers. Most Catholic papers subscribe to this agency and so are able to supply their readers with timely authentic news of interest to Catholics Many of our magazines and reviews also subscribe to keep informed of events

Mr Hall the director of the N C W C News Service, at our recent convention made certain statements in his annual report which I believe are most informative as showing the widespread use of the service by the Catholic Press

Recording the continued advance in the number of Catholic newspapers in this country and also a large increase in the number of subscribers to the News Service Mr Hall said "There is no doubt that the Catholic Press during the last year exerted greater influence than ever before, not only among Catholics but also among the American people generally Not content however, with this progress, the Catholic Press has experienced a new period of self searching and it has shown a healthy impatience to better itself and its methods

Mr Hall stated that two new diocesan papers were established in the last twelve months and that 15 new Catholic papers have been established in the last five years He said that the N C W C News Service is now serving the largest number of subscribers in its history

121 in 22 countries a net increase of 10 subscribers in the last year He also reported a broadening of the News Service facilities for the world-wide collection of Catholic news and news of interest to Catholics as such

Here you see Catholic diocesan newspapers having this splendid service not to be obtained elsewhere plus the news of local events offer a worthwhile product

IMPROVEMENT NOTED

Mr Fitzpatrick our retiring president, in his annual message also commented on the recent developments of the Catholic Press: "If you will go over our Catholic publications for the past 15 years and note how they have changed many of them from year to year you will see this steady improvement. I consider the Catholic class magazine infinitely better not only in general content but in general functioning than the secular class magazines

"The same is applicable to national and diocesan weeklies. Examine our magazines and our newspapers and our pamplets. Note the improved natural, unstilted writing and logic and, I believe, conviction will be yours Simply, in passing, though I should like to linger on the subject, the tying together of the world through the medium of the N C W C News Service has been one of the brightest chapters in American Catholic Journalism The existence of the N C W C enables us to check on dishonest, untruthful and stupid journalism"

To some extent the circulation of the Catholic papers can be readily gathered from the statistics of the United States National Committee for the World Catholic Press Exhibit which was held at Vatican City in 1936

	Number	Circulation
Catholic publications of every kind in the United States	4 631	8 990 657
Newspapers	134	2 396,516
Magazines	197	4 604 141
School Publications	1,000	250,000
Bulletins, purely local groups	700	240 000
Parish Bulletins	2,600	1,500,000

Catholic newspapers in the United States which are published once each week or oftener total 134, and have a combined circulation of 2,396 516 They are divided as follows

Dailies	9	165 000
Tri-Weeklies	1	7,875
Semi Weeklies	3	26 000
Weeklies	121	2 197 551

Also as we are about one-sixth of the national population of the United States our papers, according to the figures in N W Ayer's Directory for 1938 which lists 464 religious publications with a gross circulation of 9,106,009 the Catholic publications number 121 with a circulation of 3 594,787 This will indicate that the Catholics are much better readers of their press than any other denomination in America

Another matter which impresses one actively engaged in following Catholic activities is the expression of any defeatist attitude

The Catholic Press is publicizing the opinions of our leaders the Bishops and leaders of Catholic organizations for all to read Yet, only recently I attended a College commencement where the salutatorian stated we had no Catholic leaders or mouthpiece in America. They said Catholics were a silent minority

It was inconceivable that two young men graduating from college, living in the City and State of New York, could make such a statement, particularly as the Bishops of the State of New York through the Catholic Welfare Committee with a board of Catholic laymen advisers, have spoken during the past year on all important legislation affecting Catholics in the State

All of which has not only been frequently and prominently printed in Catholic papers but also in the secular newspapers

Their statements show that they were unconscious of the part played by the Catholic Press in the Legion of Decency banning of burlesque shows and many other campaigns Surely these young men did not read Catholic papers otherwise they would be better informed

PERSONAL VIEWPOINT

These same young men as I have heard many others commented on the seeming confusion of Catholic spokesmen presenting contradictory views on events These occasions should have no difficulty for informed Catholics If a contradictory statement is made other than the announced view it does not mean that such a statement is the Catholic position It is simply a personal viewpoint

When one comes across some of the statements in the daily press made by individuals who are supposed to be presenting the Catholic viewpoint on this or that topic of timely interest it becomes easy to Bishop Curley suggested at the recent convention the establishment of an official bureau of information within the N C W C The Bishops said have been asked to appoint diocesan directors of Catholic information Some sixty have already been named

When a director of the N C W C bureau is named the Bishop added diocesan directors will meet with him for a working conference and Catholics in the field

Diocesan directors he pointed out will when they find articles misrepresenting Catholics or their position in secular publications act after the manner of the Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia contact the editor of that publication and counteract the first article with another setting forth the real Catholic position.

Now here is a sensible and practical way of setting forth the Catholic position whenever the need arises An authoritative statement we may be sure will be forthcoming at the proper time No longer will irresponsible spokesmen be grabbing the limelight as champions of the Church when their sole intent is to get some publicity for themselves.

Such individuals often are not fitted to speak for the Church. In fact their utterances are usually of such a character that they are more of an embarrassment than a help First of all, these self-appointed spokesmen seem to feel that they must be "militant" and that, therefore, abuse of an opponent is the proper course at the outset of every controversy into which they hurl themselves

Such a Bureau supplies an imperative need, the presentation of our position to secular publications in an effort to stem and perhaps wipe out entirely the old fashioned attacks upon the Church and its teachings. Also the correction of errors by issuing authoritative data in answer to articles either unjustly critical or libeling the Church Where the Catholic Press brought the true story of Spain before the public such a bureau if it had been in existence could have functioned more quickly to overcome the Communistic propaganda in the beginning

INDECENT PUBLICATIONS

The furthering of the campaign against indecent magazines has been encouraged by the C. P. A. At our executive board meeting at Notre Dame last fall a resolution

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130 YOUNG MEN ENTER ST. ANDREW'S

As Seminary Begins Its 68th Year

Following celebration of the Mass of the Holy Ghost by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney and his address to the student body in St Patrick's Church, St Andrew's Seminary began its 68th scholastic year on Tuesday with a registration of 130

This is an increase of thirty seminarians over last year, the increase showing especially in the first year

Of this number between twenty and twenty-five students will make their home at the Saint William House on Buffalo Road the home of non-resident students at St Andrew's Seminary

There are seventy seminarians registered for the high school department and forty for the two year college course The temporary quarters in the old Cathedral school building have been altered and improved to provide separate class rooms, laboratories and libraries for the two departments

Each department also has its own faculty such a separation of the departments being required by the University of the State of New York when St Andrew's, together with the philosophy department of St Bernard's, was empowered to confer degrees

On the faculty of St Andrew's are the following diocesan priests the Reverend Fathers Walter J Kohl, PhD Science John W Keefe, MA, Latin and History, Howard W Geck, MA, Latin and German John C O'Donnell, M A Mathematics and Science Michael Turner Greek and Religion, George Vogt, MA, Latin and French, Thomas J Brennan, M A, English, Religion and Librarian Benedict Ehmann Gregorian Chant and Francis Marks English and Librarian

The Very Rev Edward M Lyons M A is rector and professor of Religion and history

Father Brennan return this year after a years study at Niagara University in preparation for his M A degree Father Wurzer is at present working for his degree French has been added to the schedule this year

Twelve seminarians graduates of St Andrew's last June entered St Bernard's Seminary this month and eight young men left during the past year to join various religious orders

SACRED HEART ACADEMY PLANS

School Opening and Building Blessing

On Tuesday, September 13th there will be registration at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Prince Street, from 10 A M to 3 P M for both resident and day students Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 14th at 9 A M The new school building, containing class rooms, an auditorium and a large recreation room, has been completed and will be blessed and opened for inspection on Wednesday afternoon, September 14th at 2 P M by Bishop Kearney Miss Mary Hayes, president of the Rochester Branch of the Catholic Daughters of America, will make a brief address at the meeting

The Academy of the Sacred Heart extends a hearty welcome to every boy and girl of Catholic Daughters of America Well worth while boys and girls classes at 3 P M there are many interesting subjects for the older girls, among which are Dramatics, Public Speaking, Parliamentary Law, Art, Music, Dancing, Swimming, Basketball, Tennis, Golf, Horseback Riding, Hiking, Tobogganing, Skating, Skiing, Ice Hockey, Archery, Riflery, Boxing, Fencing, Tap Dancing, Ballroom Dancing, Social Etiquette, Home Nursing, Red Cross Life Saving, Water Safety, Canoeing, Sailing, Rowing, Diving, Water Polo, Water Ballet, Water Basketball, Water Baseball, Water Tennis, Water Golf, Water Hockey, Water Archery, Water Riflery, Water Boxing, Water Fencing, Water Tap Dancing, Water Ballroom Dancing, Water Social Etiquette, Water Home Nursing, Water Red Cross Life Saving, Water Safety, Water Canoeing, Water Sailing, Water Rowing, Water