

Msgr. Sheen Cites Power Of Retreats

WORLD'S SALVATION IS IN HANDS OF

Retreatants Says Noted Professor

Nearly 500 lay retreatants were told Saturday night that in your hands may lie the future salvation of the nation.

Delivering the tribute was the Rt. Rev. George Fulton J. Sheen, principal speaker at a banquet highlighting a regional conference of the National Laymen's Retreat League held here Saturday and Sunday.

Speaking to a crowd that overflowed the Seneca Ballroom, Monsignor Sheen declared:

"You who make spiritual retreats are already doing something important by performing the best kind of reformation—self-reformation. The world is too full of those who would reform others and forget themselves."

Social Obligation
Continuing, the speaker pointed out that a retreat movement is not a spiritual luxury, but rather a social obligation. The crown of our work is not petition but in adoration and sacrifice. The first way to restore the reverence of God is to make yourself conscious that you are a member of a great spiritual corporation.

The address was given in the Seneca Hotel on Saturday evening. It was the climax of a series of addresses which had begun with the St. Vincent High Mass and sermon by His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester.

"As you gather here," the Bishop said, "you are emphasizing a message significant to the world. It is that man should retire periodically from active affairs and get into communion with Jesus Christ by means of a retreat."

Result of Retreat
If men are to accomplish personal sanctification, the salvation of their own souls, it will come from such practices as retreats.

Held under the patronage of the Bishop, the affair was directed by the Rt. Rev. Charles F. Shay, moderator of the Rochester Laymen's Retreat League and by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Shay, spiritual director of the organization.

Panel discussions were held throughout the retreats with papers being given on four different phases of retreats.

In Sunday retreatants received Holy Communion in their own parishes and at the retreats. At four o'clock on Sunday afternoon, the men assembled for the Holy Hour.

"The Jewish race as the chosen people," the speaker said, "is the model of a people that has been chosen by God. They are the chosen people of the Jewish people retain their unity."

Continuing, Father Crati pointed out that it is not unusual for anyone who loves Christ to regret that he was not born in Christ. Yet today retreatants may enjoy the benefits of this same Jesus in the laboratory of the home.

Concluding, Father Crati pointed out that Catholics turn to Him with the eyes of faith, rather than turn instead to the prevalent theories and ideas of living faith.

At the banquet Charles Tucker was toastmaster. He introduced the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Sheen to the retreatants.

Address of philosophy at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C. Monsignor Sheen pointed out that retreatants have a duty and an obligation to see that others benefit from the spiritual life they have gained.

"With that grace of God that knowledge of truth that you gain for yourselves," he stated, "go forth to the duty of sharing it among your fellowmen for the good of the city. You are the leaven in the man. In your hands may be the future salvation of the world."

"If we have knowledge we have an obligation to spread it," continued the Monsignor. We were here meant to be numerous. Qualitatively we were meant to be spiritual. He said that the Communist movement has succeeded in gaining \$5,000 from a labor union.

The Monsignor pointed out that there must be armed groups of men who will answer the religious queries with intelligent responses. You have a duty not only to sanctify your soul, but also the way wherever you live. As Catholics who have been baptized we are members of the Apostolic hierarchy. Wherever we work there should we teach. Indifference to religion, he declared, results first in irreligion, then in atheism and finally in persecution. He scored the logic of totalitarian states which "dictates not only to the body, but also to the soul of the individual."

LAY RETREATANTS HEAR PRELATES AT BANQUET



Sound advice was imparted to members of the National Laymen's Retreat League at the Hotel Seneca Saturday evening highlighting a regional meeting here. Shown in conference from left are: His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, Dr. Edward J. Moran, Buffalo; Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen, and Colonel William Murray of Columbus, Ohio.

Panel Talks Explain Meaning Of Retreats

The panel discussions at the Laymen's Retreat Conference held in the Columbus Civic Center here Saturday and Sunday brought nationally prominent clergy and laymen as speakers. The speakers' conclusions were "The Laymen's Retreat in Catholic Action."

Panel speakers included John E. Craig, Little Rock, Ark., Col. William Murray, Columbus, Ohio, the Rt. Rev. Charles F. Shay, Rochester, and the Very Rev. James Galvan, St. Columban's Seminary, New York.

Let us bring among the people of this great movement and then we build up large groups of men who are willing to give of their time and their leisure and their domestic life to go apart a while with the great Retreat Movement and expose themselves to the sacred graces which God gives to those who voluntarily surrender to Him, then we will have Catholicism made vital in the faith by the growth and development in the individual and the community.

The purposes of the new retreat was defined as two-fold: the individual and, second, inspiration to Catholic action. The aim of Catholic action, he said, is to advocate true justice and charity and to advance the Kingdom of Christ in society, the family, in the parish, in the diocese. It will include organization for the support of the home and foreign mission, for the education and maintenance of Catholicism, for the defense of the faith, for the society against the evils of divorce, sterilization, birth control and communism.

Col. Murray advocated the closed retreat, whether held by an individual or a group as the type best recommended. "Wide-open" retreats, he declared with their opportunities for worldly recreation, are not the type of retreats which should be recommended. They are not the type of retreats which should be recommended. They are not the type of retreats which should be recommended.

When I look beneath the surface of this hectic modern life, he said, "which boils and seethes all around us, when I note the growing degradation in our national life, especially the rising tide of paganism among our youth; when I see the assaults continually made against our holy Church in particular, I am convinced that in the depths of my soul that anti-Christian, Christ the King, is to console in his visible body, the Church on earth, we need every possible weapon of offense and defense."

Among these, Col. Murray commended "the retreat movement," spreading ever more and more widely among our people, is one of the most potent weapons available to us. Let us use it then to the utmost and, in accordance with the military axiom that the best way to win a strong offense, is to carry the fight to the enemy. Even though we lose a battle now and then it matters not so long as in the end we do not lose the war.

Father Nealla recommended for successful promotion of retreats the setting aside of one Sunday in the year as a "Retreat Sunday," during which the four excellent retreats should be held. On that Sunday, he said, priests in every diocese should tell of retreat facilities.

These sponsors of a retreat, he declared, must work intensively to direct potential retreatants. "Remember retreatants must be kept moving in the right direction. Not

HIGHLIGHTS IN LAYMEN'S SESSIONS

Word was passed around here that the next national conference of the Laymen's Retreat League will be held October 5, 7 and 8 in New York City during the World's Fair with Retreat Day on the 8th and special ceremonies scheduled.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Shay, moderator of the Rochester Laymen's Retreat League, gave the Soliman Benediction on Sunday at the close of the Holy Hour.

A retreat, he said, is something personal. "A retreat is communion between God and the retreatant. The voice of God hereafter is drowned or blurred by the roar of the world. No man hears himself clearly."

The principles and truths which are a part of the Catholic faith are not to be understood and fully appreciated in the silence of the retreat. The retreat overcomes the noise of the world, a changed man. He sees the world as it really is. He has had pointed out to him in the days of retreat the terrible sins of parental neglect, folly and parental cowardice. He is more over-realized that in the midst of the growing disregard and bare-faced contempt for the sacred rites of matrimony, the appalling list of divorces, the empty homes, the wretched homes and the unhappy family life so widespread in America today, he has almost stood out as a real, genuine, old-fashioned Catholic home.

To all men with whom he comes into contact is a living example that gives the lie to those who speak of religion, to the weak-kneed type of Catholic, to the man who jerks at a clean heart and tongue is prudery, and to all who by the folly and sin in their lives scandalize others.

The apostleship of the laity can express itself in no finer fashion than by inspiring influence and exemplary conduct. These are the fruits of the closed retreat which shall cause a new pulse to throbbing and flow in the whole social body.

Father Sheenan declared it is rarely possible for a Catholic layman to make too many retreats. He urged attendance at a retreat annually and one day of recollection annually.

To the working man that the Church is with him is nothing more than a blunt statement of fact. But just suppose our retreatants were to go down to the working man in the factory, where conditions are so often unbearable and lift those men out of their drab surroundings if only for a single day take them to a retreat house where their broken spirits will be placed together, where the dignity of labor will be stressed, where they will be told that there was a Leo and a Pius who befriended them, that the official Church is not opposed to labor unions, that a man has a right to a living wage—just suppose that the retreat movement would extend such a friendly hand to the working man, what a contribution it would make to revive his faith in his Church and his God!

The day of recollection, Father Sheenan said, is an intensely spiritual development of retreat work. Such a development is not a novelty, he pointed out. Numerous religious orders have adopted the practice of a monthly recollection day for their members. If laymen makes one retreat and one day of recollection annually, he has that much more spiritual strength for his soul," he asserted.

St. Stephen's To Hold Two Missions

GENEVA—The mission for St. Stephen's parish, is to begin on Sunday morning when the opening sermon will be preached at 8:30 Masses.

Brewing Industry In Rochester Has Faith In The Future

In the very depth of the business depression came repeal of the prohibition law. Money for capital investment was very scarce. Everywhere was doubt, fear, retrenchment. However, the undersigned went ahead. They immediately spent hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair and modernize the old plants. They hired employees to make and sell their products. They paid Federal and State taxes in amounts unheard of in former times. They had all the courage needed to help make business hurt.

Recession No Deterrent

Even since the more recent recession began, the undersigned went ahead and spent more thousands and thousands of dollars for new buildings and new equipment. Their former faith in the future was simply renewed. When sales dropped they retained their employees at full pay, who naturally spent their earnings as before. In every possible way they did their utmost to make business good.

A Promise For 1939

We, the undersigned, agree to let no fear, no rumors, no lack of effort undermine our faith in the future—so necessary in 1933 and continually needed for much of the time since. We shall persevere in our efforts to keep our business growing, keep our number of employees at the fullest reasonable amount at standard pay, and preach and practice that

"Business Is What We All Make It"

TOTALS FOR 1938	
* No. of Employees	800
† Total State-Federal Taxes	\$3,785,000
‡ Total Cost of Improvements	\$571,500

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Many telegrams were received by retreatants including sons from His Excellency the Most Rev. Giovanni Ambrogio Giovanni, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, and several Bishops throughout the nation.