

Students' Duty To Aid War Effort Explained At Sodality Conference

BUFFALO—Over 3,600 students representing eleven colleges and twenty-four high schools gathered together this past week-end for the fifteenth annual convention of the Western New York Student Sodality Conference here.

The college sessions were held at Canisius College with the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, D.D., Bishop of Rochester, presiding.

The general theme of the session for college students was "The College Student and Victory" and was under the direction of the Rev. Daniel A. Lord, S.J., of St. Louis, National Director of the Sodality of Our Lady. After a brief address of welcome by the President of Canisius College, Very Rev. Timothy J. Coughlin, S.J., Father Lord inaugurated the day with an explanation of "What is the American Way of Life" and the delegates were soon on their feet expressing their opinions.

"American college youth can help win the war, and the peace afterwards by bringing God back to their campuses," he said.

Father Lord was highly critical of the nonreligious universities that "never allow God in their classrooms and some of whose faculty members don't even believe in Him."

American Must Learn

"God is not on the side of the heavy battalions," continued Father Lord. "God is invariably on the side that is right. Consequently America today has to find out whether we still have this alliance with God. If it is true that 51 per cent of Americans don't believe in God, as has been stated, if it is true that after the last war we excluded God from everything that mattered, maybe God took us seriously."

"American Democracy," declared Father Lord, "is based on the Christian conception of man. In the course of years we have kept democracy but have tried to get rid of Christian principles that underlie it, such as the fatherhood of man and human dignity. So what actually happened? Hitler came along and seemed to be the logical man—no God, no human soul, no freedom. Well, therefore, no democracy. If we are to have American Democracy we must re-establish belief in God and belief in human dignity as above the animal level."

Bishop Leads Sodality

His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, who extended greetings to the gathering, paid warm tribute to Father Lord and the Sodality for the contributions they are making to the Catholic life and action of the country.

"You young people," said Bishop Kearney, "are the future leaders of our nation and it is from you we

expect the right kind of leadership. It is very gratifying to find you getting up on your feet to explain the American ideas of life and ready to defend them from the false philosophies of the present day. It would be a very happy experience for some of the leaders of American thought who have expressed concern over what they call dogmatic Christianity to listen to some of the expressions of patriotism you have expressed here today. Those of us who might be concerned about the future of the worthwhile ideals of America can be greatly encouraged by listening to this sodality convention. I, for one, certainly have been." (Speech from Diocese)

Miss Rita Ferrero led the delegation from Nazareth College, who took part in the College sessions. Student Nurses of St. James' Hospital, Minira, were present and petitioned admission to the Conference.

The second day was held at the Kleinhans Music Hall where over 3,000 crowded into the main auditorium to hear Father Lord expand on "The Catholic High School Students' part in the War." At the very outset of the meeting, a short Quiz program was conducted by Father Lord on the stage with six young ladies and six young men.

The band of the German Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum played incidental music and started the community sing which Father Lord himself directed from the piano. Traveling microphones were stationed through the vast hall and delegates were able to take part in the discussions with Father Lord on the stage.

The Rt. Rev. Magr. John C. Carr, president, and Rev. George Zimpler, Director of the Buffalo Parish Sodality Union, gave the invocation. Rev. Vincent I. Bellwoar, S.J., Moderator of the Conference welcomed the delegates to the convention. Sister Mary Maureen of Our Lady of Mercy High School and Sister Anna Joseph of Nazareth Academy led over 700 representatives as a special train to Buffalo and were conspicuous by their special badges.

Flanked by representatives of the twenty-four schools in the High School section of the Conference who were on the stage, Father Lord urged the high school boys "to remain in school until the nation calls you, both for your own sake and the country's sake."

"After the last war, the future leaders who might have taken over

had they gone on with their education, were too old to continue their schooling. It created a terrific shortage in many skilled classifications and professions. My advice is to stay in school until your government calls you. If everyone left school now we would be worse off after this war, than we were after the last."

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College Alumnae Retreat Set

Nazareth College Alumnae Association will hold its annual retreat Saturday and Sunday, Mar. 28-29, at the college. The retreat, which will begin Saturday afternoon at 2:30 P. M., will be conducted by

Dr. Maynard A. Cornell, of St. Bernard's Seminary.

Arrangements for the retreat are under the general chairmanship of Miss Rita Doolin.

Reservations are being taken by Mrs. James Van Allan and Miss Ruth Page.

Announcements were sent by the Misses Mary Leary and Rita Malinphy.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Golding is chairman of publicity.

Began Attending Mass Daily at 71, Dies at 91

LONDON.—Timothy John O'Keefe was 71 years of age when he started attending Mass daily at Westminster Cathedral, near his home. His wife went with him. For 20 years they attended daily Mass. Now Timothy O'Keefe, veteran of the Zulu and Boer wars, has died at the age of 91.

"Can you type?"
"Well, I use the Columbus system."
"What's that?"
"I discover a key, then land on it."

Girl Hears From President

ONTARIO, N. Y.—Under the caption, "Ontario Girl Receives White House Letter," the Wayne County Mail of Mar. 6, 1942, carried the following account:

"Listening to President Roosevelt's talk on the evening of Feb. 22, Rosemary Allen realized that the several coughing attacks during his talk indicated that the President was not enjoying the best of health. The next day she sent a letter expressing her interest in his well-being during these trying times of our country. She is very proud of the letter received in answer:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

February 27, 1942.

My dear Rosemary:

That friendly letter you so kindly sent to the President on February twenty-third pleased him a great deal. He is most appreciative of your solicitous interest in his welfare and wishes me to thank you, too, for your good wishes.

Very sincerely yours

GRACE G. TULLY

Rosemary Allen

Ontario, N. Y.

Rosemary formerly lived in Blessed Sacrament parish in Rochester.