

**Educator Honored**  
Atchison, Kan.—The Rev. Dominick Schwinn, O.S.B., of St. Benedict's Abbey, has been chosen President of the Midwest unit of the National Catholic Educational Association.

**Priest Warns Nation Against Indifferentism**

**Fr. O'Connell In Stirring Address To Sodalists**

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of a lower race and a highly developed animal. The consequences of such a thesis are immeasurable. "In the first place, the spiritual nature of the human soul is denied, the essential in humanity, namely the material body and that which gives it life, namely the spiritual, immortal substance known as the human soul, is dissolved. Man is made such no longer by the spirit but by the race. As a consequence this, there exists no free will. The human person can have no real moral qualities, no responsibility, no guilt, no merit. As race is transmitted by procreation, education and spiritual influences can have no effect on character. The generation of man, therefore, is to be submitted to the same regulation as the breeding of horses or dogs. "The individual is exclusively a means, like a cog in a wheel. Man is a property in all the domains of his life of an economic unit. All private communities, like the family, are equally means for the economic unit. An event about 12 years ago in Russia illustrates this conception in a drastic way. A number of children who were taken by their parents in order to be educated exclusively by the state turned out badly; so they were assembled in a court-yard and machine-gunned.

**Rights Denied by Nazism**  
"The same economic collectivism is to be found in Nazism. The individual person has no rights. An order promulgated in 1933 for the hospitals of Berlin forbids doctors to treat needy and poor patients

unless a complete cure is certain. Such patients are only to be fed; if a man has little chance of being useful to this economic unit it is best to let him die.

"Communism and the present regime of dictatorship spread a gray, dull atmosphere over the whole of life. Charity, love, compassion, devotion are banished. In Nazism, the stronger has the right to crush the weaker. Morality is a perverse invention of the weak, the sick, the poor, of naturally less gifted men, to overcome the strong and the richly endowed. Contrition and humility are deplorable signs of a lack of virility. Brutality, cruelty, pride are the authentic virtues and the signs of the superman.

"These are the principles of human life, whose tentacles are striving to engulf human society. And mind you, this is twentieth century civilization. This is not paganism; the pagan world recognized an ideal of justice and kindness; it is not barbarism; the most barbarous tribes showed some kind of generosity.

**Great Hour for the Church**  
"A great hour has come for the church. The absurdity and the horror of the Anti-Christian revolutions are revealing where apostasy from Christ has led us. Catholicism and Catholics can say to the world the word it needs. A human person is essentially different from both material substance and animals. A person is a being which stands as subject on one side, with all the rest of being as object on the other; has free will, responsibility, conscience; can possess moral values, commit sin, be endowed with virtues, as purity, humility, love and generosity; has the capacity to enter into communion with other persons by knowing and loving them. "According to Catholic doctrine, man was created by God, to His image and likeness. The substantial form of man is the soul, a spiritual and consequently an immortal substance. The decisive factors in the formation of personality are free will, education, environment, spiritual influences and grace.

"Wherein lies the challenge to this anti-Christian revolution? Our first task is to crush within the mind of society any tendency to clutch at principles which would relegate the human person to any condition of life other than that maintained by Catholicism. We must oppose the idea of any economic unit, which destroys the full dignity of the individual person. We must demonstrate that the selfishness of man can be overcome only by the love of God and of our neighbor as an image of God. We must unmask the idea that the longing of man can be satisfied by surrendering himself to earthly powers and gain but only to the constant struggle for eternal reward and life.

"But," Father, you will say, we are not Communistic, we are not Nazistic; that is Europe today—that is America, that is true and we might be inclined to repeat a slogan that has been once scrapped. "It can't happen here." I know that there is much to be said in favor of this country's treatment of God. At least we haven't started paying divine honors to a fire-eating Fuehrer, a strutting duce or a Communistic blood-letter. But you must admit that America is tinged with an "ism" which if not soon checked, will bear the same ill-effects now crushing the human individualism of Europe. What is that "ism"? Indifferentism.

**As to Pro-Americanism**  
"If our patriotism prompts us to cry out 'God Bless America,' that expression ought to be thought out in its logical conclusion. There are millions of people who delight in calling themselves 'pro-Americans' and yet who are doing everything in their power to declinate the population of their beloved country. For America, the handwriting is on the wall just as it was for France. When the coffins of a country exceed the cradles of a country, that country is doomed. Our birth rate figures



Rev. J. Joseph O'Connell

are very close to the figures of the once mighty France. France once gave us the Statue of Liberty; she is now offering us another gift—the voice of experience.

"We are arming ourselves against aggression from without. What about decomposition from within? If our democracy perishes, it will die, not from Nazi raiders, Japanese militarists or Communistic fallacies, but from cancer of the head and heart.

"God bless America? Don't be silly. God will never bless America until America first blesses God."

The Reunion, which was attended by the present members and former members of the Sodality who were affiliated with the organization in 1933 or who have joined since that time, was one of the great social events of the Sodality in recent years. St. Mary's former moderators, Rev. Father Fennessy of St. Augustine's Parish, Rochester, and Rev. Leslie Whalen of St. Peter and Paul's, Elmira, were present and ad-

ressed the members. Fathers Fennessy and Whalen worked zealously for the Sodality of St. Mary's and their presence added greatly to the success of the party. Father Fennessy was moderator from 1933 through 1937 and when Father Whalen came to Auburn in 1938 he was appointed moderator of the Sodality. It was during Father Whalen's moderatorship that the Sodality was divided into two divisions, namely the Senior and Junior Sodality, for the greater interest of the members.

The program opened with a prayer by the pastor the Dr. William E. Cowen, who spoke briefly of the work of the Sodality. The words of welcome were given by the president and Miss Gertrude Cora, toastmistress introduced the speakers and presented the program. Brief remarks were made by Rev. Dennis Hickey, present moderator, Rev. Joseph McNamara and Rev. Edwin Agonis, O.M.C., present assistants at St. Mary's, and Miss Cora read a message of greeting from Rev. James D. Cuffney, former assistant, who was unable to attend.

Mrs. Elizabeth Scollan House was in charge of the entertainment which consisted of a humorous skit by Miss Helen Crawford, a solo, "The Ave Maria," by Miss Helen Wallace, and a selection of songs by a trio composed of Leona Gauthier Fitzgerald, Josephine Wallace Milhausen and Miss Helen Wallace.

There was community singing of popular songs and "parodies" written in honor of former moderators and present assistants and the pastor of St. Mary's, and a special tribute was paid to Mr. Gerald Conroy, organist of the church. Upon request Father O'Connell sang "Mother Machree." The program closed with a prayer by Father Hickey and the singing of "Mother Dearest, Mother Fairest," by the Sodality.

Miss Sarah Hynes was general chairman of the Reunion and she was assisted by Miss Dorothy Fitzgerald and Mrs. Ann Campbell McGee, co-chairmen of the Ticket Committee, and the members of their committee.

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**Chamber Elects Lewis M. Kayes**

GENEVA — Lewis M. Kayes, Geneva insurance man, was elected president of Geneva Chamber of Commerce succeeding Paul E. Vogt at an organization meeting of the Board of Directors at the Hotel Seneca. Thomas K. Fahy was elected vice-president in charge of Finance, and John F. Gleason was re-appointed secretary.

**C. D. A. Card Party Enjoyed At Geneva**

GENEVA — Court Geneva of the Catholic Daughters of America held a large public card party for members and friends on Thursday evening, April 23rd, at the Woman's Building at 8 o'clock. All of the popular card games were featured and refreshments were served. The committee on arrangements included Mrs. Frank Foley, Mrs. George Hall, Mrs. Joseph McElroy and Mrs. John Walsh.

**For U. S. Army Chapels**



Hundreds of crosses and crucifixes purchased by the Quartermaster Corps for use by Army chaplains in camp chapels at home and abroad are inspected by Captain M. C. Pratt, U. S. A., at the Chicago Quartermaster Depot. Army Signal Corps photo. (N.C.W.C.)