

Pupils' Souls Must Be Chief School Concern, Bishop Tells Teachers

Parochial school teachers attending the 41st Annual Teachers' Institute of the Diocese of Rochester on last Friday, were given an urgent plea to "make the souls of their pupils the chief concern of the classroom," by His Excellency Bishop Kearney who addressed the final session.

Almost 1,000 teaching sisters, representing all the elementary and high schools of the diocese participated in the one-day conference at Aquinas Institute, Rochester.

Climaxing his address to the teachers with the insistence that spiritual interests must always enjoy a position of primacy in Catholic schools, Bishop Kearney stated: "After all, the main thing we want to do in our schools is to save souls. We make no apology for that."

He urged the sisters to foster in the children the love of God, regard for virtue, habits of prayer and Christian practices which will make them good Catholics and secure the salvation of their souls. These objectives the Bishop set above the mere acquisition of human science.

"You are not ordinary teachers," he told the sisters, "You have consecrated your lives to God, and therefore you are not only teachers but also apostles of souls."

The Rev. Dr. John F. Cronin, S.S., professor of economics at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, also spoke on "The Catholic Social Program and Tomorrow's Problems," and warned that the present-day concentration of economic and scientific power can destroy the world.

"Power can be curbed," he said, "only if men temper economic and scientific might with a sense of duty. This means, of course, that in the schools of tomorrow the social studies must be given a place of honor and dignity."

Tackling the problem of what should be taught under the heading of "social studies," Dr. Cronin explained: "If we merely teach our students what man has done, we can teach them barbarism as well as social mindlessness."

"Something more is needed. The vital and missing element in religion. Religion alone can supply the 'ought' which is needed to make man really civilized," he declared.

Addressing the Rev. Dr. J. J. Egan, diocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Cleveland, ex-

One of Four



Russia Has But Two Catholic Churches

Rome — (RNS) — Only two Catholic churches remain open in Russia, as compared to 1,185 churches and chapels before the Revolution, according to statistics published by the Vatican. The churches are supervised by two priests, one American and one French.

According to the Vatican compilation, 26 Orthodox churches are functioning in Moscow at present, whereas prior to the Revolution there were 600. The Catholic population preceding the Revolution numbered 6,000,000, and was served by 7 bishops and 896 priests, the report stated.

STAR'S SON BAPTIZED

Los Angeles—Film Star Loretta Young's second son, Peter, is to be baptized at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Beverly Hills.

Practice Franciscan Spirit, Pope Tells 6,000 Tertiaries

Vatican City — (NCF) — In an address to 6,000 members of the Third Order of St. Francis, His Holiness Pope Pius XII exhorted them to lead a life of shining faith and genuine love so that the hour of Christian love may soon strike.

Addressing them in the Hall of Benedictions on "The Spirit of Christ in the Third Order," the Pontiff urged Tertiaries to give to the world an example in practicing a spirit of poverty that abhors luxury and avarice, a spirit of mortification that shuns all disorderly yearnings, and a spirit of charity that eschews all quarrelsomeness.

Through that spirit of love, the Holy Father said, embracing all classes and all peoples, and that spirit of strong faith, the Third Order can help frustrate the overt and covert snares laid by the enemies of Christ and the Church.

"Let there be an end to the discord of factions, hatred, personal rancor and vengeance that are keeping so many families in a state of anxiety and uneasiness," the Pope appealed. "Go, my children, and see that the hour of Christian love now strikes."

Alsace Bishop Dies

Paris — (NCF) — Alsace is in mourning over the death of its bishop, the Most Rev. Charles Joseph Eugene Ruch, who officiated in the Diocese of Strasbourg since the Liberation of 1918.

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