

Challenges Given 1,000 Teachers

"We could change the face of the earth in a month if we ever let loose the power of God within us." With this challenge the Rev. James G. Keller, M.M., sounded the keynote of the 43rd annual Teachers Conference of the Rochester Diocese.

Addressing more than 1,000 Catholic teachers in Aquinas Institute in the closing conference sessions last Friday afternoon, Father Keller advanced the plan for positive and aggressive Catholicism which is known as the Christopher Movement. The Maryknoll priest is founder and promulgator of the program.

The positive approach was stressed by three other speakers: the Rev. Dr. Arthur J. Heffernan, superintendent of schools of the Hartford Diocese; Rev. John J. Volight, superintendent of New York Archdiocesan Schools; and the Very Rev. Dr. E. J. McCorkeil, superior general of the Basilian Fathers of Toronto.

FATHER KELLER charged that Catholics, including priests and religious teachers, distrust their own apostolic ends by their negative and selfish attitude toward their Faith. He hurled the accusation that Catholics are hoarding their Faith to the envy and resentment of those outside the Church.

"One Communist school may turn out students who have more impact on our country than the graduates of 500 Catholic schools who are only interested in saving their own souls," he averred. Warning that "100,000 Communists are exerting more influence than 26,000,000 Catholics," Father Keller appealed to the teachers to inspire their students and "stir up that little apostolic spark which may kindle the whole world."

IN THE OPENING address Thursday, Doctor Heffernan called upon the teachers to subordinate the "dons" and repressions of abstruse theology to a positive, practical religion course that will lead to lasting habits. "Give the children the warmth of the Faith you love," he urged, "before you take up the cold, dull and intellectual Catechism."

Emphasizing the importance of putting God into every phase of the curriculum, he pointed out that every subject from geography to geometry will permit "propagandizing."

Father Volight called for a more objective evaluation of the Catholic school program and took issue with the tendency of Catholic secondary schools to stress the academic rating of students.

He said there should be a plan to place these students in public schools where they may be reached by priests and religious through secular advisors.

TENDENCY of the progress-

TEACHERS TURN STUDENTS FOR TWO DAYS AT DIOCESAN CONFERENCE AT AQUINAS



The auditorium of Rochester's Aquinas Institute (left) was transformed into an exhibit hall for diocesan teachers at their annual conference. Above, from left to right, are the principals in the forum on teenagers: Rev. J. Joseph O'Connell, Rev. Thomas F. Slattery, U.S.C., Rev. Charles J. Mahoney, Ph.D., diocesan school superintendent; Rev. Raymond P. Nolan, General, and Rev. John T. Collins.

ive educational program to emphasize the body and its senses was decreed by Father McCorkeil in a talk on the "eccentric drift in educational practice." He decried the "wreckage" left behind even in our own schools by the tidal wave of progressive education.

The distinguished Basilian said he noted a "subtle connection" between "this popular religion of the body which permeates contemporary culture" and the present movement of the Church to deignify the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. "It seems to me that the Holy Ghost wants to show the whole human race what is the only true glorification of the body," he declared.

Rev. John S. Randall, who appeared briefly to report on the mission program in the schools, told the teachers "we are entering a new year which may be the dawn of destiny," and appealed for their prayers and the prayers of the children for the conversion of the world.

A WORD OF tribute and encouragement to the teachers was voiced by His Excellency Bishop Kearney as he closed the sessions Friday afternoon. He reminded them that the final exam for each child was the final judgment before God and that the most important part of the school program was brought into the classroom from the chapel.

A forum on special problems involving special remedies was held Friday morning with the following principals: Rev. Arthur E. Rattigan, Director of the Family and Child Care Agency of Catholic Charities; Miss Elizabeth M. Cocks of the family division; George W. Montgomery Jr., Coordinator of Catholic Charities Psychological Services; and Sister M. St. Mark, S.S.J., principal of Immaculate Conception School.



Two of the chief speakers confer between sessions. They are the Rev. T. Gerald Mulqueen, principal of Catholic Central High, Troy, and the Rev. Arthur J. Heffernan, superintendent of schools of the Hartford Diocese.



Signing up for the two sessions are (left to right): Sister Rosavivona, Sister Servanda of Mary Immaculate, St. Joseph's School, Rochester; Sister Mary Bonadot, Sisters of Mercy; St. Andrew's, Rochester; Sister Mary Loyola, Sisters of Mercy, St. Sabina's, Rochester; and Sister Mary Terence, Sisters of Notre Dame, St. Michael's, Rochester.

Teacher Purge Hits Catholics

New York—(NSC)—Reports from Slovakia depict the unscrupulous methods used by officials of the Communist-dominated Slovak regime in a "purge" of Catholic school teachers who have dared to express opposition, either privately or in public, to the new school system, some of which aims at the abolition of private schools.

At the same time, a Communist-inspired campaign has included lists of what it terms "unreliable" state officials—all practicing Catholics whose loyalty to Czechoslovakia had previously been investigated and attested to by the issue of "loyalty certificates."

The reports declare that the general purpose of these measures seems to be the creation of a "red" and "socialist" atmosphere among all non-Communist institutions.

FOLLOWING RECENT investigations by school inspectors, who are either Protestants or Communists, suspected Catholic teachers are transferred from their posts and transferred to other schools where they are assigned to inferior positions.

At a typical instance, the reports cite the case of Paul Balaz, headmaster of a school at Mythen, Paul Munnich, Eastern Slovakia. At a teachers' meeting he had broadcast the proposed school law as non-Catholic in spirit. His official assignment was taken away, but his family received an order from the ministry of schools transferring him from his headmaster's post to a teacher's post in a village.

Similar methods have been used against many other Catholic teachers, particularly in the eastern parts of Slovakia. It is understood that friendship of a teacher with the local priest, or frequent reception of Holy Communion, are selected upon by those engaged in the investigation process as sufficient reasons for the teacher's removal and transfer.

Social Encyclical Reported Due Soon

Rome—(RNS)—Pope Pius XII are opposed to the Church and is working on an "extremely important" encyclical dealing with social questions during his stay at Castel Gandolfo, according to informed Vatican circles.

The new encyclical, informants declared, will probably be similar to the *Reverum Novarum* encyclical of Pope Leo XIII on the condition of the working classes which was issued in 1891.

In addition to discussing social conditions in the light of modern developments, Pope Pius XII is believed to summarize in the new encyclical the doctrines set forth in his recent message to President Truman and other statements in which the Pontiff has defended the "natural rights" of man as opposed to totalitarian political teachings.

It is predicted that Pope Pius XII will strongly urge Catholics to imitate the motto of St. Benedict, "Pray and Work," in order to strengthen and defend Christianity at a time when many leaders

30-Year Nun 'Thumbs Ride'

Baton Rouge, La.—(NC)—Sister Tharsilla of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who "thumbs ride" to visit the sick, is the last among the members of her community who taught in public schools of Mississippi.

Sister Tharsilla, who is almost 30 years old, has been a nun 23 years. For 23 years she has taught catechism at the State prison farm, Angola, near Baton Rouge.

Although suffering from the effects of a bone broken some time ago, Sister Tharsilla manages to get around. "I just have to work and do something for God, so I'm working among my prisoners," she said. "If I can thumb a ride I get around to visit the sick too," she added.

Last year citizens of Baton Rouge presented her with a loving cup, an annual award to a person who has done outstanding work in the city.

Nun, Ex-Tennis Champion, Safe After Release by Reds

Maryknoll—Sister Marie Elise Baumann, a Maryknoll nun who just recently was permitted out of Dalren, Manchuria, has arrived in her home city of Manila in the Philippines, according to information received here.

After the failure of many efforts Sister Marie Elise, a German national, was finally released from Dalren by the Russians and taken to Shanghai aboard a Russian liner illegally carrying passengers between Dalren and Shanghai. Together with two other Maryknoll nuns and two Salesian priests, Sister Marie Elise was permitted to land at Shanghai as a friendly gesture by the Chinese Government.

Efforts are now being made to have her companion Sisters, Sister Mary Sabina Nakamura, a Japanese, and Sister Margaret Kim, a Korean, join the Maryknoll nuns at Tsai, Japan.

The three nuns, who had been in Dalren since 1941, kept open the only Catholic school in that city throughout the war. Communication with the nuns and

4 U. S. Prelates Plan Vist to Australia

Melbourne (NC) Four members of the United States hierarchy have now indicated that they will attend ceremonies here next May to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Melbourne.

The U. S. prelates are Their Eminences Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, and Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York; Archbishop John J. Mitty of San Francisco, and Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston.

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