

Negro Catholic Told To Teach Racial Justice

New Orleans — (NC) — While the Church Militant has shown itself a "journalism of democracy and of social justice" by acting to eliminate racial segregation there is still the gigantic challenge of inducing the individual Catholic to work against this insidious, Xavier University graduates were told at a commencement exercise here.

The largest class in the Negro university's history heard Archbishop LaCrosse, Assistant State Attorney of Cook County, Ill., tell them "to impose upon our colleges and sisters of the Catholic Faith the obligation to join our ranks and to oppose the collective forces of bigotry and racial hatred."

MR. LACROSSE, a 1936 Xavier graduate who later attended Harvard University and the Catholic University urged the graduates to "constantly remind their fellow Catholics that a wide gap exists between the attitude and the spirit of American Catholics and the pronouncement of our Holy Father."

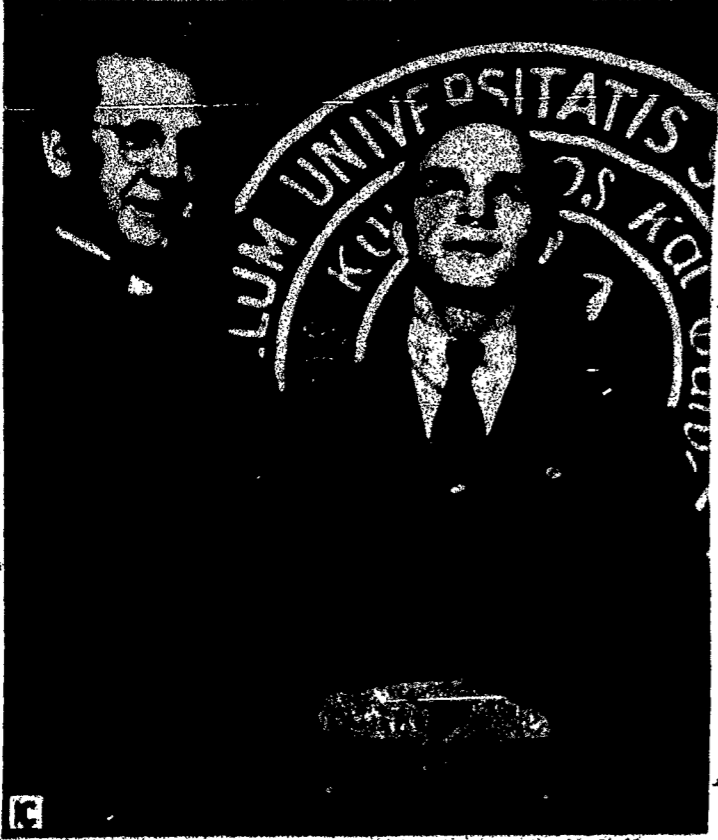
"We must impress them with the fact that more of our citizens in the United States have adopted the policy of full integration of Negro people in all phases of Catholic life without regard to local law or local custom," he stressed.

He cited the "democratic revolution" in racial matters of Archbishop Ritter of St. Louis and O'Malley of Washington, of Archbishop Hummel, and of Bishop O'Hara of Buffalo. In such actions, Mr. LaCrosse said, the Church Militant demonstrates itself to the world at large as the true fountainhead of leadership and of social justice in our country today.

"TRUMAN REMAINS, however, the gigantic challenge of convincing the individual Catholic of the value of contributing his personal and individual effort toward eliminating social injustice in our society," he continued.

"Catholicism, Catholicism by its very nature and firmness of faith can eliminate social injustice entirely in our society if they but have the will to do it and if by individual conduct and action they emulate the Apostles of Christ."

DEAF-BLIND, HONOR GRAD



By a friendly arm around his shoulder the Rev. Cyril F. Meyer, C.M., Dean, conveys to Robert J. Smithdas, totally deaf, (totally blind) graduating honor student of St. John's College, Brooklyn, the high regard in which the doubly handicapped senior is held by students and faculty — and the plaudits of his fellow colleagues which Smithdas can neither see nor hear. (NC Photos)

'Hail Mary' More Powerful Than Atoms, Priest Warns

Detroit — (NC) — The Blessed Virgin Mary is our first line of defense against the menace of atomic warfare, Father Leo J. Tresse told 750 men at the monthly luncheon of the First Friday Club yesterday.

This speaker, author of the Catholic best seller, "Vessel of Glory," said that, like members of the club, he also hoped and prayed for world peace and industrial peace, but "the world will not change unless human hearts change, unless the kingdom of Satan gives way to the Kingdom of Christ."

"We do believe," Father Tresse continued, "that there is more power in a single Hail Mary than in all the atomic piles and fusion laboratories of the world. But do we act like it? You know we don't."

"We have heard Our Lady of Fatima, but we are still plunging our hopes to our ability to make bigger and better

bombs than Russia, and to our ability to hit Moscow with them before the communists can hit Detroit."

After recalling Our Lady's deeds in her role as "Help of Christians" in past centuries, Father Tresse continued:

"Another conqueror hammers at our portals now, but our first line of defense is the same. Pray and do penance as the message of Fatima; pray and do penance and Russia will be converted and the world shall be saved. It was the same message at Lourdes to St. Bernadette, and the same message was given by Our Divine Lord to St. Margaret Mary at Paray-le-Monial."

It is quite possible that the conversion of Russia will come about the hard way — the hard way to us, that is — at the cost of our lives, the speaker warned.

Lay Speaks:

Find Born-Leaders For Parish Duties!

Pinehurst, N.C. — (NC) — The typical parish leader is "of the 'father-says' mentality and not interested or qualified beyond the prosaic sort of meeting and fund-raising activities."

This description of the parish leader as seen by his fellow layman was cited at a regional workshop here for spiritual moderators of diocesan councils of Catholic men and women and affiliated organizations.

A SAMPLING of the views of 30 laymen reported at the meeting indicated complete agreement that the parish is failing to discover the more competent lay leaders, and laid the blame at the door of the present-day society, the clergy, and the laymen themselves.

Results of the sampling were presented by the Rev. Philip J. Kenney, consultant to the Department of Lay Organizations, National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Criticisms of typical parish leaders as reported by Father Kenney included the following: "Most . . . are leaders by default."

"Willing but unprepared." "Too many stuffed shirts." And one critic said that some are "opportunists."

"How can parish priests overcome this problem and induce born leaders to participate in parochial activities?" One layman told Father Kenney.

"Many born leaders remain aloof because too often our parochial groups tend to be petty, badly managed and lacking purpose. I believe the only basis on which they can be approached is that they have both a duty and an obligation to participate in and lend support to specific projects, for specified times and in fulfillment of definite objectives."

"I don't believe Catholics worthy of the name will shrink from an individual and personal request," this layman added, "but it must be more than how about helping with the Holy Name?"

ANOTHER LAY suggestion was: "Show them a program they'll be interested in carrying

out, and drive home that their God-given talent for leadership means that they have a duty to use it."

A spiritual note was sounded in this view "I think the beginning of all participation in parish activities should be at the Mass itself. By observation I am convinced that at least 75 per cent of these congregations are there only by habit and they do not even participate mentally in the Sacrifice of the Mass."

"Why will our pastors not institute the dialogue Mass, congregational singing and general participation of the congregation in the Mass?"

THE 19 priests attending the workshop heard this criticism of the laity itself by laymen.

"The laity is tremendously at fault in the failure to discover and utilize lay leaders in the parish. Because of their preoccupation in their daily lives and their enmeshment in the pursuit of the secular and the material in order to compete with their secular-minded neighbors, they give little thought to the affairs of the parish."

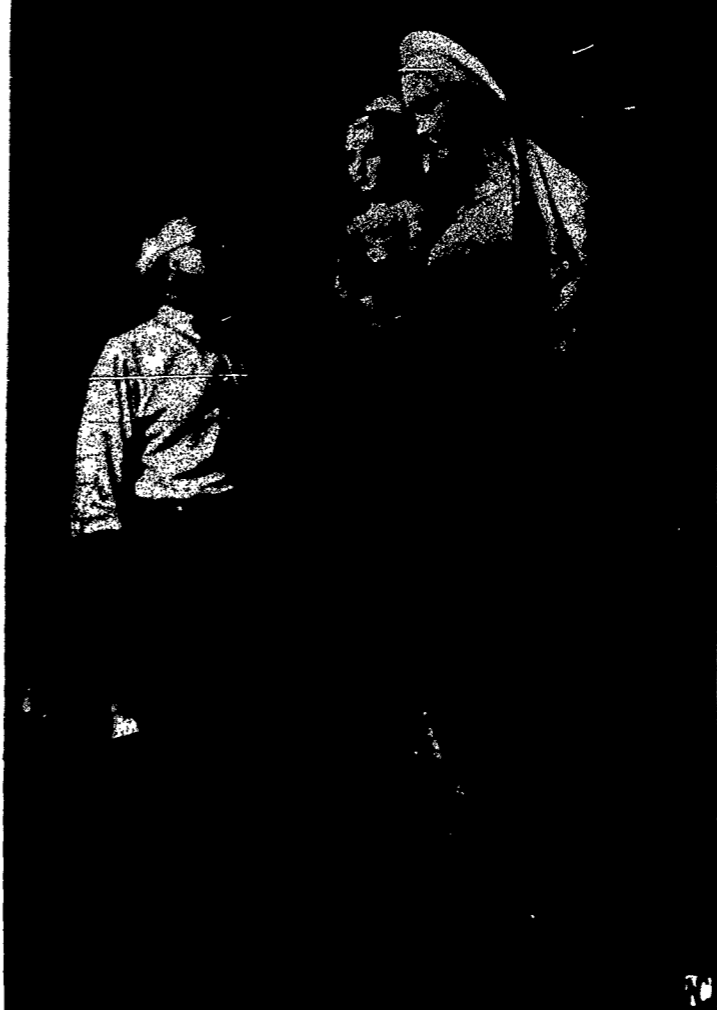
The workshop was under the sponsorship of Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio, Episcopal Chairman of the Department of Lay Organizations, National Catholic Welfare Conference. Representatives attended from the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and from the Dioceses of Richmond, Va., Raleigh, N.C., Charleston, S.C., Savannah, Ga., and St. Augustine, Fla.

Barefoot Pilgrim Arrives In Rome

Paris — (NC) — A young pilgrim recently arrived in Lourdes after walking barefoot across the whole of France. He is Constantin Njol, a 23-year-old mechanic, who covered the 750 miles from his home in Dunkerque, French port on the English Channel, to Lourdes in 23 days. Although he arrived with his feet painfully swollen, he suffered no other ill effects.

M. Njol made the pilgrimage to pray for the success of a new business he is about to start with four other Dunkerque workmen

MADONNA -- NEW VERSION



Gracing the grounds of a convent in New Rochelle, N. Y., this imposing statue of the Blessed Mother and Child was unveiled on June 4. It is the work of Eugene Kormendi, sculptor, of the University of Notre Dame. Made of Indiana limestone, it took one year to complete the project. Mr. Kormendi is the sculptor who completed the gigantic monument to Christ the Light of the World in front of the N.C.W.C. headquarters, Washington.

Montreal Police Close Up Church-Sponsored Raffles

Montreal, Canada — (RNS) — City Police Attorney Antonio Lamer says that the Montreal Police Department intends to crack down on Montreal's church-sponsored lotteries.

"These lotteries may be for good purposes," he said, "but the city is swamped with them. If we allow churches to sponsor them, what chance have we of stopping chain stores and others from getting in on the act?"

The matter was brought to a head in Recorder's Court when two men were arraigned on charges of selling raffle tickets for a Catholic parish which is sponsoring a \$22,000 lottery.

Attorney Lamer explained afterward that churches in general and Roman Catholic church in particular have started

Laud Promoter Of Miraculous Medal Novena

Philadelphia — (NC) — A combined celebration here June 8 will mark the 34th anniversary of the Association of the Miraculous Medal and the golden jubilee of ordination of the Rev. Joseph A. Skelly, C.M., who has helped to establish national devotion to the Blessed Virgin through the Miraculous Medal.

His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, will preside at a solemn ceremony in Mary's Central Shrine here. Hundreds of lay promoters of Miraculous Medal devotion, in which it is estimated 5,000,000 persons throughout the world take part each week, will participate.

SINCE HE was commissioned by his superiors to establish devotion to the Blessed Virgin through the Miraculous Medal in 1915, Father Skelly has figuratively put the Medal around the necks of millions of men, women and children. Promoted mostly by lay people, the association has as members such prominent persons as President Truman, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and even Joseph Stalin. Dues for these members are paid by Miraculous Medal devotees.

Anyone, regardless of religious beliefs, may become a member of the Central Association, which has given financial help to many students for the priesthood and has aided the poor in this country and in the China missions served by the Vincentian Fathers.

At the Shrine on Chelton Avenue here, 12 services each Monday are attended by upwards of 15,000 persons. During World War II 800 chaplains conducted novenas in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in virtually every American military establishment in the world.

From the Central Shrine in Germantown the Novena has spread to 3,500 other churches and chapels throughout the world. The association has received letters testifying to more than a million favors granted to those subscribing to the devotion.

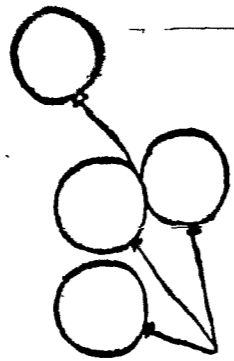


Fr. Skelly

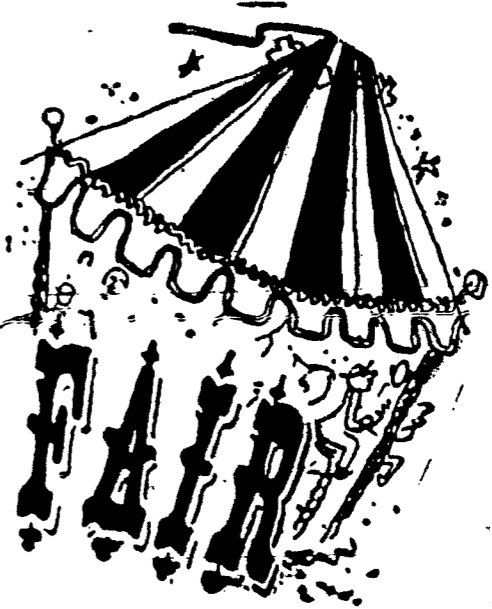
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