THE CATHOLIC
Courier Journal
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

Southern Tier Edition ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1951

Father Meade's Warning Opens Teachers Meeting

The more than 1,000 teachers gathered at the Forty-seventh Annual Teachers Conference of the Diocese of Rochester at Aquinas Institute were called upon to thwart "a danger that can split the foundation of our civilization."

The speaker in the opening session on Thursday was the Very Rev. Francis L. Meade C.M., president of Niagara University. Father Meade referring to the moral decadence in America declared there still stands one bulwark to challenge.

As an example of the danger the University president cited the decision of Chief Justice Vinson of the United States Supreme Court in which he said "Nothing is more certain in modern society than the principle that there are no absolutes."

"WE MUST remember that this is not the opinion of one man," said Father Meade. "It is the official and solemn thinking of the Supreme Court. It is a legal measuring rod by which we are supposed to live.

Now let us take these words apart and see what they imply," Father Meade continued. "Of course we could point out that they are self contradictory. Just as there is nothing so dogmatic as the denial of dogma so when Mr. Justice Vinson denies absolutes he insists that the whole law set one up that is that there are no absolutes.

But take the words at their face value. If there are no absolutes there is no divine sanction. If there is no divine sanction [illegible] has nothing of right and wrong and justice can be the shifting factor [illegible]

[illegible] Father Meade said.

He pointed out that there is no wonder that [illegible] favors to be bought and sold like commercial commodities and that so many professional people are [illegible]

He cited the drift downward among many doctors willing to sell their medical science so long as they stay within the law and so many lawyers using their skill to circumvent rather than uphold the law. He asked business men who measure the weight of a contract by words of the document rather than the scales of justice.

THE SAME VIRUS may be found in the field of athletics and the speaker said the athletes who have bartered their honor and been robbed their schools are but a small segment of a society that has gained [illegible] without God in a world of egalitarian mores.

Quoting the [illegible] dependence [illegible] Father Meade said [illegible] Bunyan [illegible] the Bible Age [illegible] same old basic [illegible] one not even powerful [illegible] from [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]