

# Classroom Encouragement of Vocations Urged By Bishop At Teachers' Session

**By JAMES MCCORMICK**

Encouraging and encouraging was cited as one of the goals of Catholic education by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Leo P. McCormick, bishop of Elmira, in the annual conference of the diocese conducted at Elmira last week.

The 17th annual conference, presided over by Bishop McCormick, pointed out that the primary source of character development is in the classroom. Pupils must be trained in habits of neatness and be aware of their accountability to God for their words and actions.

"There is no agency outside the Catholic home to compare with the Catholic classroom," he said. "The religious must develop courage, devotion and enthusiasm in students from whom one day will come religious to take over their desks when God calls."

**CHIEF CONCERN** of the Catholic school teacher should be the development of vocations, the bishop pointed out, because at present Catholic schools are forced to turn away children for lack of personnel.

His Excellency advocated a First Friday Prayer novena for vocations and to build up in the classroom the love of Jesus Christ.

"The development of souls, sensitivity of conscience, and strengthened wills are more important than the development of the intellect."

Catholics should realize the mistake of leaving the motto, "In God We Trust," on our coins and not taking it into the classroom. Pupils can't learn too soon the sight of the picture of Our Saviour in the classroom, how to pray and of God's love, the bishop told the assembly of teachers.

Extending his thanks to the priests, teachers and Sisters who were laboring tirelessly in the schools, he said the community owes a debt of gratitude.

Citing that the community is relieved of an expense of \$4,000,000 by the diocesan school system, he lauded Catholics for their willingness to pay the expensive price because "they realize the country needs people with characters like those developed in the Catholic classroom."

**BANKING IN** the conference, the Rev. Leo McCormick, superintendent of schools of Archdiocese of Baltimore, outlined the



relationship of the teacher and the Christian heritage by saying that "our Christian heritage is the sum total of Christ's teachings applied to society. Christian social teaching is the antithesis of secular social teaching."

"You do not want your students to be intellectual giants with little or no knowledge of the moral obligations of life. Prison bars frequently close behind men and women who have labored long hours to master some of the arts and sciences, but spent little time in learning the art and science of loving God. Your secondary aim in teaching is to develop the abilities, skills, interests, habits and powers of your pupils so that they may become worthy members of the Church, society, home and school."

Father McCormick told the gathering that in our social heritage we find respect for the child and the Christian use of authority. Successful teachers, he said, subordinate the senses of the child to the intellect, and the intellect to the will of God.

The speaker advised the priests, Brothers and Sisters, to learn to love more ardently the Supreme Teacher, Christ, that they might hold fast the heritage of social Christian teachings.

The Rev. Albert Shamon, professor of English at St. Andrew's Seminary, pointed out that the essential difference between Catholic and secular education is that the end-all of secular education is to enable the student to



EDUCATORS GATHER for a chat after closing sessions of the Diocesan Teachers' Conference held at Aquinas Institute (upper photo). Shown with His Excellency Bishop Kearney who addressed the more than 1,000 teachers are (left): Leo J. McCormick, superintendent of schools; Archbishop of Baltimore, Rev. Dr. Charles J. Mahoney, school superintendent in Rochester diocese and in charge of the conference, and Rev. William E. Davis, principal, Holy Family High School, Auburn. Among the teachers who enjoyed the exhibits (lower photo from left, Sister Mary Joseph, Sisters of Mercy, Elmira Catholic High; Mother St. Augustino, Religious of Jesus and Mary, St. Francis School, Auburn; and Sister Mary Lucy, Sister of St. Francis of Pittsburgh, St. George's School, Catholic Courier Staff Photos).

## Pope Blesses Kolping Society

Rochester Branch of the Catholic Kolping Society was honored with the Apostolic Blessing from His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, on the occasion of their 25th anniversary, which was celebrated here in conjunction with the National Convention of the organization earlier this month.

This communication was sent directly from Rome to the Very Rev. Augustine J. Ayward, C.S.S.R., Præses of the Kolping Society, Leo P. Saeum in the present Senior of the Kolping Society, whose headquarters are at the Notre Dame Retreat House, 246 Alexander St.

## Fr. Kenney Set By Friday Club

Auburn -- The First Friday Supper Club, sponsored by Auburn Knights of Columbus for the Catholic men and boys of Auburn and vicinity, will hold its monthly meeting at the Council Home on Genesee Street Friday evening, October 5, at 6:15 p.m.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Raymond Kenney, a member of the faculty of St. Andrew's Preparatory Seminary, Rochester. Father Kenney, a native of Auburn and an alumnus of Holy Family High School, will speak on the subject "The Catholic Church and Labor Unions."

Tickets are available from the following committee: John Geherin, William McKeon, William Murley, Thomas Campbell, Charles Dae, and Edwin Nolan.

A fish supper has been planned by a committee of ladies headed by Charles E. Geherin, Member of the K of C Auxiliary will serve.

**Kingdom of God**  
Reno, Nev. (N.C.) "The necessity for the workingman to strive for the kingdom of God before seeking material wealth was emphasized by Bishop Thomas K. Gorman of Reno. In a sermon in Holy Name Cathedral here.

if there are no absolutes there is no God who is the First and Necessary Absolute.

The Rev. Raymond P. Egan, associate superintendent of schools, archdiocese of New York, urged the teachers to be men and women of broad vision. Addressed by the Rev. Arthur R. Looby, C.S.B., Sister M. Antoinette, S.N.I., Sister M. Phyllis, O.S.F., and the Rev. Thomas F. Gavin, S.J., rounded out the conference.

"Make" good. Catholic education must enable the student to "be" good. "It is not what is taught but how," he told the teachers.

**THE PRIEST SAID** that what ever method of teaching one uses, the important thing is that the child is taught to appreciate the true, the good and the beautiful.

Speaking of teaching methods, Father Shamon said that the teacher should not pontificate or monopolize the classroom period because education means to draw out. He likened the child's mind to a blank sheet of paper on which the teacher must write words of wisdom.

Teachers are dull in their presentation of subject matter because nine times out of ten they have not mastered their subject, he said. Sarcasm in a teacher

was scored as defensive mechanism for a poor teacher who has failed.

The school should resemble the family, not the State, the teachers were told for all school life is a prolongation of family life.

"All discipline must come from the child," he said. "And he will want it if he sees good reason for it." Father Shamon stated.

Other speakers at the conference included the Very Rev. Francis J. Meade, C.M., D.D., president of Niagara University, who challenged a recent decision of Chief Justice Vinson of the Supreme Court when he said "Nothing is more certain in modern society than the principle that there are no absolutes."

Father Meade pointed out that

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