



**CATHOLIC TEACHERS' CONFERENCE.** Photos above were taken at the Fifth Annual Diocesan Teachers' Conference held Thursday and Friday, Sept. 16 and 17, in Aquinas Institute, Rochester. Photo at left shows large group of teaching Sisters in the Aquinas auditorium, gathered to hear noted educators who



spoke during the two-day session. Center photo shows the Rev. Charles V. Boyle (seated), superintendent of schools of the Rochester diocese; standing (from left) are the Rev. Damiano Baker, O.S.B., pastor of St. Anselm's Church, New York City; the Rev. Dr. Joseph L. Hogan, principal of DeSales High School,



Genova, and the Rev. John F. Murphy, C.S.B., president of St. John Fisher College, Rochester. One of the many exhibits on display during the Conference is shown in the photo at right. Gathered at the Propagation of the Faith booth are: (from left) Sister M. Neal, R.S.M., teacher at St. Andrew School, Rochester;

Miss Helen Thompson, Diocesan Propagation office; Sister M. Clarice, S.S.J., teacher at Nativity of the B.V.M. School, Brockport; and the Rev. Arnold Neegan, C.S.B., biology teacher at Aquinas Institute. (Martha Wahl Photos)

**Diocesan Educators' Conference**

**Bishop Kearney To Teachers — 'Develop Beauty Of God's Mother In Student'**

A plea for teachers to develop in their students "something of the beauty and character of the Immaculate Mother of God" was made last week by His Excellency Bishop Kearney before the annual conference of teachers in Rochester Diocesan Schools.

The Bishop spoke at the closing of the Fifth Annual Teachers' Conference held last Thursday and Friday in Aquinas Institute where more than 1,200 teachers from schools of the Rochester diocese attended the two-day session.

Expressing his appreciation for the work of the Sisters in the schools, the Bishop compared the pleasure of a mother who sees something of herself in her child to the pleasure of the Blessed Mother of God when she sees in her students a resemblance to herself.

HE OBSERVED the plus practice of adult Catholics to the

intensive work of the teaching Sisters, who make it their vocation "to develop Christian men and women in the likeness of God."

Bishop Kearney paid special tribute to the Rt. Rev. Magr. Charles J. Mahoney, recently resigned as superintendent of Diocesan Schools and to the Rev. Charles V. Boyle, newly appointed superintendent.

Teachers at the conference who represented a total enrollment of 42,225 students in 96 diocesan schools, were divided into elementary school and secondary school sessions for the two-day meeting.

**KEYNOTE SPEECH** was given by the Very Rev. Laurence J. McGinley, S.J., president of Fordham University, who said that the primary task of the Catholic school teacher is to "supply the need of youth's very being for God."

"In reality youth belongs to

God and is totally dependent upon Him," he said. "Without God, as youth knows only too quickly, joy is short-lived, suffering becomes unbearable, life is a riddle and death a catastrophe."

Father McGinley told the assembled teachers that they "must be deeply and meditatively convinced that natural perfection is a good thing, that truth and goodness and beauty all come from God—the truth of science as well as the truth of scripture, the goodness of married life as well as that of virginity, the beauty of music of the Madonna. All these are the perfections of the human person."

The Fordham president said that the teachers' duty is to "attract the minds and hearts of their students and to inspire youth to cherish "that total moral integrity which we call human goodness."

**THE REV. THOMAS A.**

**BURKE, S.J.**, student counselor at Regis High School in New York City, talked on student guidance before junior and senior high school teachers.

Miss Laura M. Phillips, arithmetic supervisor of the Massapequa and Roslyn, L.I., schools, discussed arithmetic problems for the elementary school teachers.

The Friday sessions were opened by the Very Rev. John J. Murphy, C.S.B., president of St. John Fisher College, with his talk, "Madly We Teach."

"The teacher teaches," Father Murphy said "because she instinctively loves the personalities she teaches. She loves them because the infinite variety, loveliness and mystery of God are in them."

"The teacher also loves the things that are in her mind," he continued. "The great teacher desires passionately to join these two things together—the things

she knows and the personalities she loves."

**FATHER MURPHY** said that discipline is not an adult responsibility against children, but a responsibility adults owe to children. If there is to be learning, he said, there must be discipline.

The reasons for punishment are simple, he said, "to atone for wrong done and to serve as a deterrent to further wrongdoing."

Punishment should never be inflicted in anger, Father Murphy warned, or there will be little proportion between the offense and the punishment. If it is to have true medicinal effect, charity and justice must be present, he said.

Summing up the vocation of the teacher, Father Murphy said, "Often bruised—often thwarted, we go on teaching, hoping that once in awhile something will happen, something that will be meaningful in eternity for the pupil and for us."

**"NON-ACADEMIC TRAINING"** was the subject of an address by the Very Rev. James B. Barnett, S.J., rector of McQuaid Jesuit High School, who was second speaker on Friday's program.

"We should like to present to the world of business," Father Barnett told the assembled educators, "a student who has the poise proper to a teenager, who is trained both in humility and self-respect, a pupil who can and will work, friendly, cooperative, anxious to learn, honest, courteous, fair, well versed and practiced in the arts suitable to his age. A youth capable of Christian living with others—not a prodigy of learning, but a normal boy or girl fit and ready to be of service to his fellowmen and to himself."

"After four years in high school," Father Barnett said, "we hope that we can return the boy or girl entrusted to us as someone who will give reasonable prospects of being of service to God to his fellowman and to himself."

Father Barnett complained of lack of training for the non-academic program and warned that the effectiveness of this training must be the result of careful planning on the part of the teacher.

This non-academic training must be for all the students, Father Barnett said, and particularly must the teacher be careful not to overlook those who need it the most.

**BROTHER BERNARD FRYER, F.A.C.** of New York City, supervisor of education of the Christian Schools, spoke on the character formation of the student through knowledge and love of the Blessed Virgin. "In doing this," the Christian Brother said, "we will merely be conforming to the objectives of Catholic Education, namely, forming our pupils in Christ."

"The purpose of character formation is the perfection of human nature, to form the highest type of human nature. The basis of character formation is systematic training in Religion so that all of man's actions will be directed and guided by its principles," Brother Fryer stated. "The supreme end of character formation is spiritual, the formation of other Christ, he said."

**FINAL SPEAKER** of the session was the Very Rev. Damiano Baker, O.S.B., pastor of St. Anselm's Church, New York City.

Three factors are important in the training of Christian youth, Father Baker stated, the Church, the Home and the School. "When we understand the roles each one plays in the training of children, we have a cooperative effort so that youth will have the best possible," he

"The Roman Pontiff for the universal Church and the Bishops for the faithful of their dioceses are the only divinely constituted teachers in the Church of Christ," Father Baker said.

Parents in the home have the innate right and the first responsibility in the training of the child, as the naturally constituted teachers, he said.

The school plays a double role in Christian education, Father Baker stated. "On the one hand, teachers in Catholic schools are

associated with the church and have been delegated by the authority of the Church with the faculty to teach," he said. "On the other hand, teachers in school take the place of parents during school hours to do that which the parents feel incompetent to do."

"It is a privilege," Father Baker concluded, "for the school to share both in the work of the Church and the Home."

**DURING BOTH DAYS** of the conference, displays were on view throughout the gymnasium and the first floor corridors of Aquinas, exhibited by local and national manufacturers and retailers. Eighty-five companies were represented in the exhibits.

The conference was formally closed with Solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, offered by the Bishop with the Very Rev. John H. O'Loane, principal of Aquinas Institute, as deacon and Father Boyle as sub-deacon.

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