English Scholar

Washington — (NC) — Father Martin C. D'Arcy, S.J., noted English scholar and author, will join the faculty of Georgetown University here as visiting professor of philosophy for the 1956-57 academic year.

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Oldest Priest Honored

Collegeville, Minn. — (NC) — Archbishop Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the U. S., presents a rosary at St. John's Abbey, here, to Father Thomas Boergerding, 96-year-old Benedictine Indian missionary believed to be the oldest Catholic priest in the nation. Looking on are Abbot Baldwin Dworschak, O.S.B., of St. John's Abbey; Abbot Philip Ruggle, O.S.B., of Yankton, S. D., and Very Rev. John Eidenschink, O.S.B., subprior of St. John's. Occasion was the centegial observance of St. John's Abbey.

Nation's Parochial School Pupils Near 4-Million Mark

By JOHN DALY, JR.
(Staff Writer, N.C.W.C. News Service)

As the doors of the nation's schools swing open this month, Catholic elementary schools take another step toward the four million enrollment mark, now a distinct possibility by 1960.

And Catholic high schools continued their enrollment growth, which it has been predicted will total almost 900,000 students four years hence, meaning a doubling of enrollment in 15 years.

In the current school year, these two levels of Catholic education will have an estimated total enrollment of about 4,225,500, a study by the N.C.W.C. News Service indicates.

AN ESTIMATED 3,500,000 children will be in the elementary schools and about 725,500 youngsters will be in the high schools, according to the study intended as a general indication of this year's enrollments. It is based on the rate of increase between school years 1953-54 and 1955-56. Official studies generally are not available until the end of the school year.

These estimated figures indicate that since the last school year, grade school enrollments have jumped by about 100,000 and high schools by about 25,000.

The number of pupils in elementary schools last year was placed at 3,400,000 and in high schools at 690,200 in an estimate issued in April by the Department of Education of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

THE SAME report indicated that by 1960, grade schools will pass the four million mark, reaching an estimated total of 4,140,000 students. They passed the three million mark for the first time in October, 1954.

High schools, which in 1945 enrolled some 520,000 students, will reach the neighborhood of 900,000 by 1960, thus doubling student numbers in 15 years, the report said.

Yet despite these large totals and the problems they have presented for many Catholic school systems, competent authorities have estimated that only three out of every five children of grade school age are enrolled in Catholic schools and only about one out of every three of high school age.

Many Catholic school systems in the country have had to face a whole new set of problems presented by these increasing numbers.

THE GAP between the need for teaching Sisters and the number available has been widened. Religious vocations are reported to be at an all-time high, but they can't keep up with the number of children.

Some education officials have estimated that as many as 30,000 new teachers will be neded in Catholic elementary schools by 1960 and some 25,000 in secondary schools by 1970.

Undoubtedly this will mean an increase in the number of lay teachers in many dioceses, presenting such difficulties as the sources of funds to pay adequate salaries and integration of the new teachers into school faculties. It puts Catholic school systems in competition with public schools for qualified teachers. At present about one in every seven grade school teachers is a lay person.

More students will need more buildings. Many dioceses are now undertaking extensive building projects.

IN THE COUNTRY, between 1952 and 1955, 520 new Catholic grade schools and 120 new Catholic high schools were constructed, according to the April report of the N.C.W.C. Department of Education.

Increasing enrollments have resulted in suggestions from some quarters that thought be given to revising the academic structure of schools. One such proposal has been that Catholic schools drop the first four grades and specialize instead on upper elementary grades and on the high school level. However, discussion on such proposals is still in the beginning stages.

The N.C.W.C. News Service's estimate of this year's enrollments was based on a comparison of the 1953-54 biennial survey of Catholic education and the April 1955-56 enrollment estimates, both issued recently by the Department of Education of the N.C.W.C. The estimated percentage of increase for one year was taken from these two reports. Assumption was made that this percentage would continue and would provide a general estimate of enrollment increase for this year.

President Eisenhower Sets Sept. 12 Day Of Prayer

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — President Eisenhower proclaimed Wednesday, Sept. 12, as a National Day of Prayer on which "all of us . . . may beseech God to watch over us in our daily lives and in the conduct of our national affairs."

The proclamation called on the people to pray "in our places of business, in our places of worship, in our homes, and in our hearts."

"Let us also render thanks to Him for the manifold bounties vouchsafed us throughout our history," it added.

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Vocations Lack Linked To Modern Life, Parents

(Continued from Page 1)

girls, Father Beck said.

He rejected the argument that boys and girls coming out of the eighth grade are "too young and immature" to know their own minds in the matter of a life's vocation.

"We think nothing of permitting youngsters to decide on athletic careers and the like at an early age," Father Beck said. "Besides, at the age of 14 or 15 the mind is actually clearer and more unfettered than at any other time."

Another objection commonly heard, he continued, is the charge that a child has been unduly influenced by a priest or Sister.

"When a priest or Sister talks to a boy or girl about the possibility of a religious vocation," the Benedictine declared, "the first thing some parents think about is: 'What's the angle?'"

Two other objections frequently raised by parents: 1) The religious life offers too many hardships for their boy or girl, and 2) There is a stigma attached to those who leave the religious life when they find that they have no vocation.

Both of these arguments, Father Beck said, are spurious. The religious life offers genuine security and other material advantages, he pointed out. Those who have given up their seminary studies or left the convent are among outstanding laymen and women, he stated.

The final argument raised by parents is that children have a financial obligation toward them.

"This is the silliest argument of all," Father Beck declared. "Actually the child had nothing to say about being born, and certainly has no financial obligation toward the parents. It owes them love and devotion and respect and gratitude but not financial assistance."

The reason given by some parents for opposing a religious vocation for their child is that they cannot stand to break the family ties. This, he said, is "unadulterated emotionalism." He pointed out that marriage breaks the home ties just as definitely as a religious career.

Louis Budenz

U.S. Reds Plead 'Peace' In Supreme Court Case

The Soviet fifth column by its infiltration process — rendered much easier by the general letdown in vigilance — hopes once again to impel the American nation to aid in its own "encirclement" by Soviet Power.

The arguments of the Communists have now been brought into the precincts of the United States Supreme Court.

LOUIS BUDENZ

In the brief filed in the high court on behalf of Claude Lightfoot, Illinois Communist Party chairman, which appeared in the Daily Worker of August 24, the contention there is that the danger of Lightfoot's "effectuation" of the violent overthrow of the Government is rendered "remote" in the "setting of the new and improved international situation since 1951."

THIS FORM of argument is an affront to the intelligence of the American people and to the intelligence of the Supreme Court. It is of a kind similar to the reasoning by Khrushchev that because Soviet Russia is revealed as a great chamber of horrors, we should therefore embrace it.

If the Communist Party is less dangerous because of "the Geneva spirit" instigated by Moscow — which is what that argument says — then the Communist Party tacitly admits that it is an instrument of Moscow. It will change its tactics as Moscow orders the change.

But that is not the end of the story.

The brief goes on to contend: "On the other hand, greater weight must be given to the preservation of our democratic freedoms, now that the conflict between the capitalist and socialist worlds has moved to a new plane where the issue will be decided not by arms, but by superiority of social, political, and economic institutions and practices."

Where do these words of the brief come from? They are almost word for word a repetition of what Nikita Khrushchev said for tactical purposes in his report of February 14 to the Twentieth Party Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He has ordained "the new plane." He has declared that now the conflict will move into the "social, political, and economic" fields.

THE REAL TACTICS behind all these fine words are witnessed in the forceful seizure of Suez by Nasser, who, under cover of "neutralism", has now become Moscow's tool; in the threat by Khrushchev to send "volunteers" to Egypt in a repetition of the Korean tragedy; and in Red China's encroachment on Burma.

It may be added that two days after this statement about the "new plane" appeared, the weekend edition of the Daily Worker (August 26) played up a contribution which showed clearly that "the peaceful transition" by the Communists is merely a maneuver on behalf of the new Khrushchev line.

In this article, appearing on page 10, it is shown clearly that Marxism-Leninism teaches the necessity for the violent overthrow of the Government of the United States. It is there correctly said: "The reports of Khrushchev and Mikoyan at the Twentieth Congress, in dealing with peaceful transition, refer only to small countries where the ruling class has been partially destroyed, where only a weak military-police machine exists and which border on socialist countries."

The contribution goes on to say that "the experience of all those countries where socialism is victorious demonstrates clearly" that violence is essential to overthrow a government like that of the United States.

Colorado High Court Modifies Tax Ruling

Denver —(RNS)— The Colorado Supreme Court modified a decision it handed down in June that religious charitable and educational groups incorporated in other states must pay taxes on property owned in Colorado.

The modification stated that the test governing tax exemption is whether or not the property of out-of-state organizations is used solely and exclusively for religious worship, for schools or strictly charitable purposes within this state."

In its June ruling, the court held that the Young Life Campaign of Texas must pay taxes on a summer camp it owns in the Colorado Rockies because it charges a fee for use of the facilities. The Texas group asked for a rehearing which the court denied. Instead, it issued the modification.

The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, a Kansas corporation, submitted a brief to the court in connection with the petition for a rehearing. The Roman Catholic order owns and operates St. Vincent Orphanage in Denver.

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