Stakes So High

Youth Work Rated Tops

Kansas City — (RNS) — Catholic specialists in the field of youth guidance were told here that work with young people is the "most important aspect of the lay apostolate" not only because of the large number involved but because the stakes are so high.

Upon the adequate educational, moral and spiritual development of youths does the Church in this country and the world depend, declared the Rev. Aloysius H. Sheller, S.J., director of the School of Social Science, St. Louis University.

HE ADDRESSED the first National Conference of Catholics in Youth Serving Agencies, which met just prior to the 5th biennial convention of the National Council of Catholic Youth. The youth convention drew more than 15,000 Catholic young people from across the country.

Citing the growth of Catholic education in America, Father Scheller warned that the number of students will mean little in itself "unless such education is sound and imbued with Christian thought and purpose."

While everyone may recognize *how essential the academic* education of youths is, he continued, it is not always as *clearly seen that this is only one* part of life's preparation.

"Moral and spiritual development cannot be given a secondary place without loss to the child and adolescent," he stressed. "Moral and spiritual development are sought after not only because we are Catholics: they are ends to be pursued because of our destiny to return to God, and these are common ends of all men."

Catholic youth organizations and leaders are essential in the full education of young people because they help to develop responsibility, he said.

Catholic Youth Meet

Truman Describes President's Role

Kansas City — (NC) — Former President Harry S. Truman told a national Catholic youth meeting that a main function of a U.S. president is to be "principal lobbyist" on behalf of 160 million Americans.

The president is the only lobbyist in Washington who looks after the interests of the majority of citizens who are unable to obtain their own lobbyist, Mr. Truman declared.

He made the statement in a survey of the function of a president that was presented at the breakfast of the fifth biennial convention of the National Council of Catholic Youth, Diocesan Section. The meeting was attended by some 20,000 Catholic young people from all over the country.

Mr. Truman described the presidency as "one of the most unusual, most important and least understood constitutional offices in the history of the world."

"The president has the most difficult job in history," he declared. The office is not really one, but six jobs, he emphasized, adding: "As a former President of the United States, my sympathies are with the man who has to hold down these jobs."

Mr. Truman went on to list five other main functions of the president in addition to that of being the nation's chief lobbyist.

After enumerating the chief executive's duty to see that the nation's laws are "faithfully executed," and to act as commander in chief of the armed forces, he pointed out that a president is also "the foreign policy maker of the nation."

This function, he said, includes the duty both to appoint ambassadors — whom he described as a president's "eyes and ears abroad" — and to negotiate treaties with the advice and consent of the Senate.

"But he can make executive agreements with foreign countries and send special representatives without consulting anybody," he added. "Strong presidents have always done these *things*."

Mr. Truman listed a president's "legislative responsibility" as his next important job. Through his constitutional powers to recommend legislation and pass on measures enacted by Congress, the president is "a vital and necessary part of the legislative process," he told the young people and adults attending the meeting.

A PRESIDENT, he declared, "is not supposed to stand back and be a 'yes man' for Congress. He must fight for his legislative program."

Mr. Truman confessed that while he was president he "got the most kick out of" the next function of a chief executive — to act as head of his political party.

"The Founding Fathers did not intend the election of the president to be mixed up in the hurly-burly of party politics," he admitted. "But our two-party system, as it developed, changed all that."

"Through his policies and actions the president must try to convince the people that his party can run the national government better than the opposition. But at the same time he must never forget that he is responsible to all the people in the nation, regardless of party, and he must always think of the welfare of the nation as a whole."

The final function of a president, he declared, is to serve as "social head of the nation." He conceded that this is "a necessary job and an important one," but expressed reservations about his own enthusiasm for the task.

"The last year we were in the White House," he said, "Mrs. Truman shook hands with some 50,000 people. I shook hands with 25,000 and dodged the rest, but she had to go ahead and do all of them."

Youth View Truman Library

Independence —(RNS)— Former President Harry S. Truman talks to Catholic youth during a tour of the Truman Library in Independence, Mo. The young people were among thousands of delegates to the Fifth Biennial convention of the National Council of Catholic Youth in nearby Kansas City. In center is Miss Nellie L. Mauch from Rock Island, Ill., and next to her, wearing Indian garb, is Tom Kaiser of Seattle. Mr. Truman later went to Kansas City to address the convention.

Respect Old Folks

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII, at a general audience attended by thousands of Rome faithful and pilgrims, urged young people to have greater respect for the aged.

"Honor is owed to them," he said, adding that he did not say this because he himself was old, but because "respect is due to old folks."

Referring to Pope St. Martin I, whose feast day coincided with the papal audience, Pope John said the life of this saintly and charitable pontiff "teaches us life has value only if it gives glory to Our Lord and our fellowmen."

"We are in God's hands," he said, "and we must serve him by multiplying our good works, and especially by giving an example of kindness and virtue for those who will come after us."

Making Marriage Click

Go To A Priest

By MSGR. IRVING A. DeBLANC
(Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)

The priest is often the first approached when marriage troubles appear. "Just you go and see Father," a wife tells her alcoholic husband. He is expected to be an "answer man."

The priest does have a rich store of knowledge in many subjects. He can usually be quite objective in a case. He has an enviable reputation for patience.

But the problems of most couples are not rooted in logic or in the intellect, but in the emotions. If we priests gave only intellectual answers, we would be repeating what couples already know about the evils of adultery, of drunkardness, or irresponsibility, and so on.

The answer is generally in flooded emotions. Those emotions are a foreign language and rarely understood by clients. This is not a matter of a priorty of emotional values, but a priority of time.

Priests must have the skilled art of listening, of creating an atmosphere of warmth, welcome, acceptance. He tries to communicate his compassion. He tries to learn mainly how a client "feels" about problems and not only how he "thinks."

There are four possibilities when a person visits us priests. We wonder whether it will be a case of therapy or of counseling, or of guidance. And we pray that it will not be one of those hopeless cases.

Some parties can only be helped by pathological treatment. This is therapy. This is beyond the scope of most priests. Strong sex problems such as homosexuality, or impotence may be involved. Or the difficulty may be extreme violence, or alcoholism. These problems are below surface and not understood by the ordinary priest.

If a client is gravely paranoic, physical injury to others could occur. Husbands, for instance, who wildly and constantly accuse their wives of infidelity, could injure them physically and generally should not remain in the same house. In those cases mere counseling is almost useless.

Referral may be made by the priest to a psychiatrist. The priest himself, however, should not make the appointment. The sooner a client assumes a sense of responsibility, the better. A priest must, however, openly show confidence in the person and the profession he is recommending.

Counseling, on the other hand, does not involve therapy. It takes in a priest's everyday cases. It is feeling and thinking with someone and helping him to understand and solve his own problems. Reconciliation with a spouse is wanted by this client and it is attainable. A good attitude exists toward marriage, children, and counseling.

This marriage relationship, however, is a dynamic, difficult, 24-hour a day relationship. It is never a simple, cut-and-dried, typical situation. A third party is invaluable in the case. Each couple in a small apartment, for instance, seeing each other day after day, differ incredibly.

Butterfly Collector

Science Pioneer On U.S. Stamp

Passaic — (RNS) — Issuance of a U. S. postal stamp to honor a prominent Slovak-American priest-scientist and artist who died in 1929 was urged by the Slovak Catholic Sokol in a letter to Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield.

The priest was Father Joseph Murgas of Wilkes Barre, Pa., who also was the founder of the Slovak Catholic Federation of America and of the first Slovak parochial school in his home town. In addition, he was responsible for spearheading a million dollar drive for the establishment of the first Republic of Czechoslovakia.

FATHER MURGAS was born in Slovakia in 1864 and was ordained there in 1888. A pioneer in the field of wireless telegraphy, he began a series of experiments at the Electrical College in Vienna which he continued at Wilkes-Barre, where he established a parish shortly after coming to the United State in 1896.

In 1904, the ten-million dollar Aether Telegraph Company was organized in Washington, D.C., on the basis of the 17 U.C. patents secured by Father Murgas. A year later a series of successful tests were conducted at his laboratories in Wilkes-Barre in the presence of government representatives and leading scientists.

Among many visitors to his laboratories was Guglielmo Marconi, the famous Italian engineer and inventor.

In addition to his scientific interests, Father Murgas also was an accomplished painter and a collector of butterflies. His collection, afterwards donated to King's College in Wilkes-Barre, consisted of 900 different specimens and was regarded as one of the most valuable in the country.

Father Murgas was honored by the government of Czechoslovakia which named a radio broadcasting station after him.

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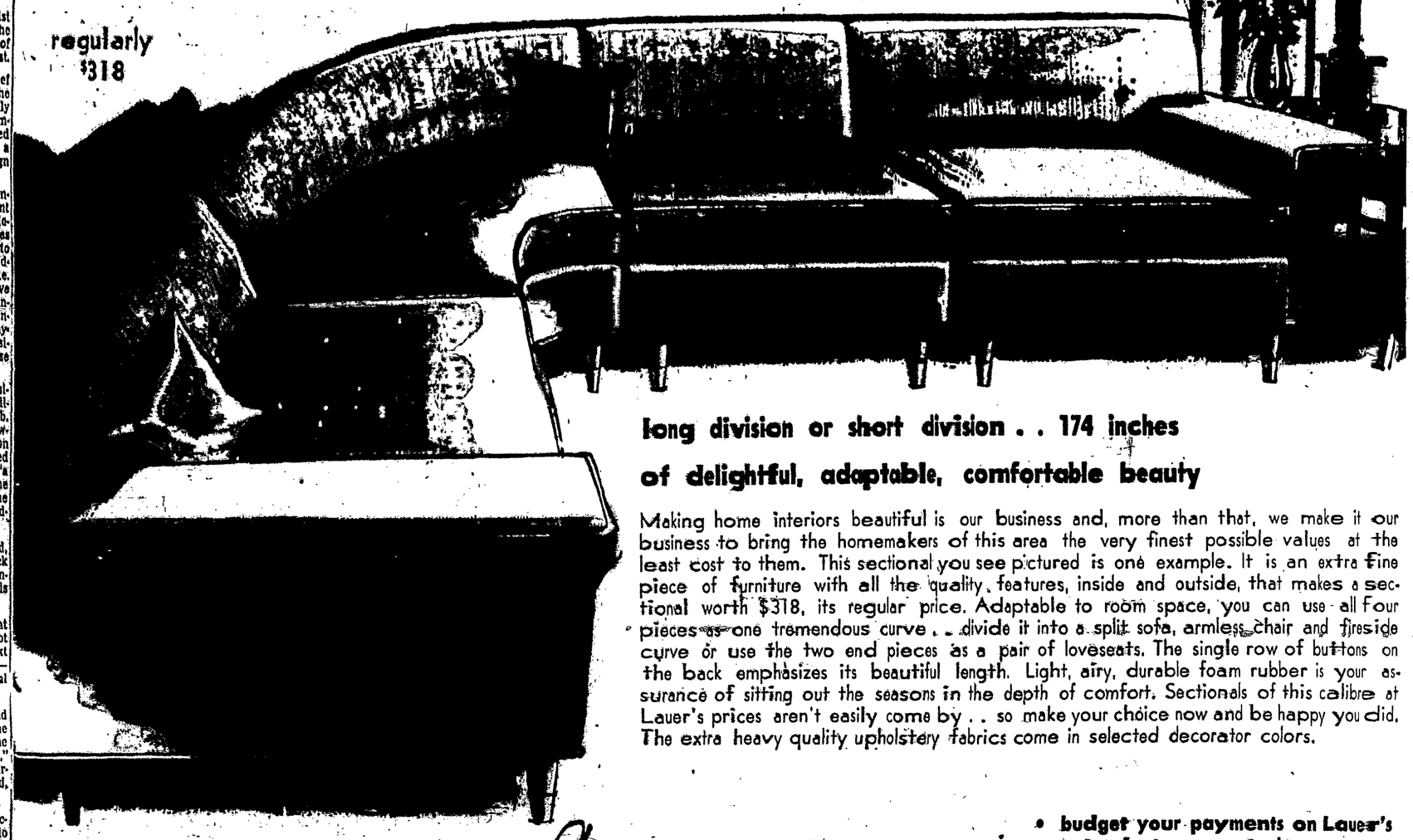

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