

# Crisis Spurs Determination

West Hax and (NC) — U.S. Catholic schools face serious problems but they will survive, "despite some predictions to the contrary," a National Catholic Educational Association official said here.

Father Albert Koob, O. F.M., a Catholic secondary school department director, said, "I am sure that the Catholic education system is leading to definite improvement and higher standards."

"Most of our schools are far better today than they were five years ago. He told the annual National Catholic Educational Association teachers' institute.

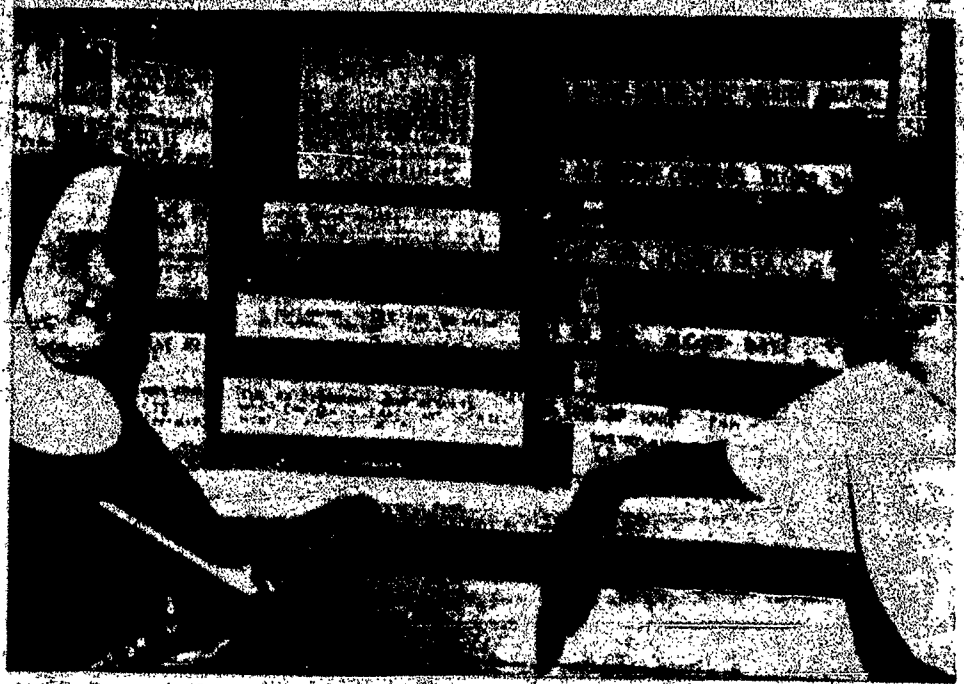
Father Koob conceded, however, that Catholic schools are "moving more slowly in the direction of improvement than many critics would like."

He attributed this to three causes: "lack of adequate funds to expand and improve, shortage of qualified personnel; and a traditional policy of conservatism regarding changes in methods and techniques."

If some cutback in Catholic education should be necessary, as for example by dropping some elementary grades, "it will be done reluctantly and with the hope of catching up later for time lost," he said.

Father Koob charged that "the greatest weakness of Catholic schools today is 'in the area of religious instruction.'"

"New concepts have to be weighed and considered," he said. "New approaches are necessary for today's adolescent. The ecumenical spirit must be absorbed and conveyed to youth without disturbing their faith."



## Navy Honors Chemistry Student

Dubuque — (RNS) — A Catholic high school student has been chosen by the U.S. Navy to exhibit his work as a fledgling scientist at a fair in Tokyo. Shown here with Sister Mary Marjories, O.S.F., the teacher who helped him become one of the nation's top chemistry students, is Paul Rolling of Dubuque, Iowa, a 1963 graduate of Wahlert High School. Paul won the top prize at the National Science Fair at Albuquerque, N.M., last spring. His project, a continuing one, will take 10 years to complete; it is a process designed to identify minerals 30 times faster than methods currently used.

## Monk's Warning

# Violence Looms In Race Issue

Menlo Park, Calif. — (NC) — Thomas Merton said here that unless white Christians join the Negro protest and become a "violent and chaotic fight for power."

The Negro, he says, does not want to become a white man, but wants to be recognized as a brother and to have the white man join him in washing away the sin of past injustice and cruelties.

Merton, a renowned author who is Father Louis, a Trappist monk of Gethsemani (Ky.) Abbey, writes his comments in the current (Christmas) issue of Ramparts, a Catholic journal published five times a year here.

The Merton article is entitled "Letters to a White Liberal." It appears in an issue devoted to racial matters and dedicated to the four children murdered in a Birmingham church bombing, who the magazine said, "perished white in the presence of God."

"In simple and Christian terms, I would say that the message is this: white society has sinned in many ways. It has betrayed Christ by its injustice to races it considered 'inferior' and to countries which it colonized."

"In particular, it has sinned against Christ in its inexcusable injustice and cruelties to the Negro. The time has come when both white and Negro have been granted, by God, a unique and momentous opportunity."

"We have this opportunity because the Negro has taken the steps which made it possible. He has refused to accept



## Father's A Grandfather

Milwaukee — (RNS) — Father Fidells Collettine, O.S.B., beams proudly at his granddaughter, the former Mary Therese Collettine, and her husband, Bryan Brooks, after their wedding at St. Monica's church in Milwaukee. The Benedictine priest, a widower with three children and 18 grandchildren, officiated at the ceremony. Ordained in 1961, Father Collettine studied for the priesthood after the death of his wife. The 68-year-old Benedictine was a physician before his acceptance by the order.

## Not Past But Future

# Pope Stresses Unity Hope

Vatican City — (RNS) — More than 60 Protestant, Anglican and Eastern Orthodox delegates-observers to the second session of the Second Vatican Council were assured by Pope Paul VI of his personal dedication to the cause of Christian unity.


Receiving the group in his private library, the Pope advised them that "the best method for us is not to look to the past, but to the present, and, above all, to the future."

"Others can and must devote themselves to past history," he said, "but we prefer to fix attention not on what has been, but what should be."

The Pope did not understate the difficulties confronting Christian unity on the doctrinal plane, but he urged that both sides "apply the principles of forgiveness in order to cure wounds not completely healed."

In speaking of forgiveness, he

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## Peace Group Chooses Author

Cambridge, Mass. — (NC) — The Massachusetts Political Action for Peace organization has chosen a Trappist monk as recipient of its first PAX (Peace) Prize.

THE AWARD will be given in absentia at a ceremony October 20 to Thomas Merton, (Father Louis, O.S.B., of Gethsemani Abbey in Kentucky).

The peace organization said he will be honored for his writings in opposition to nuclear war.

The award will be accepted for him by Msgr. George Casey, a columnist for the Pilot, newspaper of the Boston archdiocese.

Principal speaker will be Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin.

## Limit Put On Guests

Washington — (RNS) — Speaker John W. McCormack (D-Md.) has ruled that he will not permit more than one guest chaplain a week to open a session of the House with prayer.

The Speaker took note of the fact that the House chaplain, Dr. Edward Braskamp, had about 45 pending requests from Congressmen who had friends of the Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, and Jewish clergy whom they wished to invite to offer prayers. There are 435 members in the House.

He said Dr. Braskamp, a retired Presbyterian clergyman, would hardly have an opportunity to perform his duty if he continued to be under such pressure of requests from outsiders. "Most of the members hold Dr. Braskamp's prayers in high esteem," Mr. McCormack observed, and prefer to have him open the session.

## Open House

NEW ORLEANS — (NC) — Ten parishes of the New Orleans archdiocese will conduct open house programs December 19-20. Protestant, Methodist and Jews of metropolitan New Orleans.

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