

# 'Torrent of Concern'

(Continued from Page 4)  
bring hope and incentive to those who seem to have no future.

One can visit the bedridden poor, clean their rooms, and shop for them. Adults can act as substitute parents for children who have no real home life. Such children can be invited into their homes to study and to have a warm evening meal. Many religious groups have free summer camps for deprived children. There are parish interracial visitation programs for the purpose of promoting better understanding among the races. Some Catholic groups have established half-way houses for former prisoners, to ease their transition into normal community life.

Such programs are many and diverse, but they have one point in common. Each calls for personal involvement. Each demands the most exquisite form of Christian charity, since each requires that we respect and honor the human dignity of the

person who is poor and unfortunate. Such charity is strong and healing. It does not demean or degrade, as sometimes happens with badly planned gifts of material goods alone.

## Social Challenge

In discussing social measures to relieve or prevent poverty, we shall present objectives and moral points of view. It is not our concern as religious leaders to deal with problems that are purely economic, political, or technical.

If we are to help the poor to help themselves, we must above all be concerned about work. Avoiding job discrimination is but one step. It is equally vital to be sure that work is available and that the poor are educated and trained to do useful work.

We are heartened at the concern of civil authorities, on every level of government, as they contemplate this problem. We pledge to them our full support in an unrelenting war against poverty. But this struggle, to be fully successful, must adapt itself to the natural patterns of each community. It must use the schools, welfare agencies, and other community activities that are already doing good work in combating ignorance, illiteracy, and demoralization. These local institutions should be assisted and supplemented, whether they be governmental or private in nature.

In the area of housing, we ask for sensitivity for the rights of the poor. Slum clearance and urban renewal programs are good in themselves, both as civic projects and as aid in the rooting out of poverty.

But let us not approach these needs merely as engineering blueprints, ignoring the human element involved. It is heartless to uproot hundreds of families in the name of slum clearance, if no suitable alternate housing is available. Indeed, many experts today counsel us to salvage and renovate an area, if at all possible, so as to keep intact the thousands of human contacts that make life more bearable. As religious leaders, we hesitate to discuss such technical problems, except that social scientists themselves have warned of the moral factors involved in such planning.

Our special concern should be for young persons who lack the training and opportunity to secure useful work. Unemployment is tragic at any age, but lifelong damage can be inflicted when the young are unable to secure worthwhile jobs. Undoubtedly we must redouble our efforts to encourage such persons to secure adequate training.

We should seriously consider the worth of youth camps or special training projects directed at the need of young adults. Here we note the insight of Pope Pius XII, who observed that society spends millions because of crime and social demoralization, when timely measures of prevention would have prevented both the personal tragedy and the social waste.

We note also with concern the fact that nearly two million farm families, and thousands of farm workers, are among the poorest of Americans. Great religious leaders, such as the late Pope John XXIII, have extolled the spiritual and moral value of farm living. But they also asserted that such values cannot compensate for grinding poverty.

Our farming poor need different types of economic help. Some can be given the training and the finances which will enable them to become self-supporting in agriculture. Others may need at least part-time employment in industries located in poorer rural areas. Still others must seek urban industrial work, but they cannot secure this without adequate training. It is a commonplace among vocational advisers that good education pays its costs many times over in the average lifetime. Surely our society can afford such an investment.

It is not difficult to persuade a homeowner to repair a leaking roof, even when he feels he can ill afford the cost. He knows that rain can damage his house and furnishings irreparably, costing him far more than any preventive repairs. In the same way, citizens must realize that urban blight and decay, the myriads of evils surrounding our slums, the effects of delinquency, vice, and crime, and the results of human demoralization constitute heavy financial losses to our society, as well as poignant personal tragedies.

They demand heavy outlays from tax funds and lead to losses in deteriorating property, as well as the loss of goods and services that could have been produced by the unemployed. What our consciences dictate as morally right, our economic judgment reinforces as socially profitable.

Yet it would be unfortunate, even in this area of social action, were we to confine our activity solely to approving legislation, paying taxes, and contributing to organized social welfare programs. Many Americans have time and energy which they would willingly contribute to the needs of their fellow men, if they could see the chance to do this. There are retired persons who wish

to be active and useful. Notwithstanding the fact that many of our teenagers wish to be challenged with something truly useful in their leisure time. The spirit and dedication that characterized our Peace Corps can also be used in domestic service by those who may not be willing or able to serve abroad.

In emphasizing the need for social action, we must at the same time pay deserved tribute to the many voluntary agencies, including especially our own Catholic Charities, which have devoted so much to the service of the unfortunate in our society. Their workers know from first-hand experience the tragic problems caused by destitution and demoralization. Their wisdom and guidance will be invaluable in any campaign against poverty. New programs must supplement, not replace, what is being done so well by these dedicated groups.

America has been hailed throughout the world for its generosity, its willingness to come to the aid of those in need. When there is famine or natural disaster, we rush to help, using both governmental and private agencies.

Without narrowing our worldwide vision of generosity and sympathy, let us also turn our eyes to the problems here at home. Of the early Christians it was said: "See how these Christians love one another." Can we think of a more fitting expression of the Christian renewal being worked out in Vatican Council II than a part of concern on our part for the poor in our midst?

"As long as you have done it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me." (Mt. XXV, 40).

# Lancaster Team Wins Tourney

The first annual Bishop Kearney High Catholic Wrestling Tournament at Bishop Kearney High saw eight of 12 top-seeded wrestlers win their respective weight classes and proved the match makers accurate as the tournament wound up before approximately 600 fans.

St. Mary's of Lancaster won the first Catholic Wrestling Tournament with 97 points. The host team was second with 87 points and McQuaid was third with 80 points. Notre Dame of Batavia had 30 points, Notre Dame of Elmira had 15 and Bishop Walsh of Olean had 10.

St. Mary's and Bishop Kearney High wrestlers walked off with most of the tournament's championships and trophies. St. Mary had five individual champions: Bill Clark at 112 lbs., John Ruggani at 126 lbs., Don Pihai at 137 lbs., Paul Trowbridge at 165 lbs., and Al Kozlowski at 183 lbs. Bishop Kearney High matched this total, even though they were competing with only freshmen and sophomores. Their champions were Eugene Oberst at 98 lbs., Tom Ciaccio at 108 lbs., Tony Mangione at 118 lbs., Dan Oberst at 130 lbs., and Tom Bailey at 148 lbs. Notre Dame of Elmira had one champion with Larry Hamilton winning at 141 lbs. and Notre Dame of Batavia had the heavyweight champion in Dick O'Conner.

Voted the tournament's outstanding wrestler was sophomore Dan Oberst of Bishop Kearney who performed in the 130 lb. class. Dan won both of his matches during the day by championship finals, he faced planning his opponents; in the Larry Monheim of St. Mary's who had lost only one match during the season. Dan was leading in this match by a score of 10-1 when he caught Monheim in a half nelson for the fall in 5:33.

Several upsets were registered, official said, and perhaps the most noteworthy was a victory by 145-pound Larry Hamilton of the Elmira school who pinned Lou Schmitt of St. Mary's in 5:57. Schmitt was seeded and was leading in scoring (23) when Hamilton reversed and scored the fall with only three seconds left in the match.

Several other thrilling finishes resulted in the championship matches. At 115-pounds, Tony Mangione of Bishop Kearney scored a 20 victory over Tim Boomer of McQuaid. The score was even in the match with 16 seconds left when Mangione scored a reversal for the winning points and the championship.

Avenge an earlier loss this season to Joe Gagliano of McQuaid was freshman Tom Ciaccio of Bishop Kearney. Gagliano had defeated Ciaccio (8-1 in January and was leading 2-0 early in the championship match. Ciaccio was not to be denied and avenged the score at the end of the first period. The last two periods saw Ciaccio in complete control as he scored four more points and, almost scored a fall.

Dick O'Conner of Notre

COURIER-JOURNAL

Friday, Mar. 6, 1964

## Cenacle Lists Fr. Moynihan

Members of the Catholic Women's Club will have an evening of recollection at the Cenacle Retreat House, 683 East Avenue on Monday evening, March 16. They will be joined at the same time with a group of members of the Trinity College Alumni.

Rev. James M. Moynihan, secretary to Bishop Kearney will be the Retreat Master.

There will be two conferences during the evening, the first conference will start at 7:30 p.m. and the program will end at 9 p.m.

Mrs. Charles F. Mulligan is in charge of arrangements for the evening.

At the conclusion of the conferences, coffee will be served. Members are asked to make their reservations in advance by calling the Club House.

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## Aquinas Grad Leads Curry College Team



JOHN AFFRONTI

John (Buddy) Affronti, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Affronti of 2687 Dewey Ave. and a sophomore at Curry College, Milton, Mass. has distinguished himself on the basketball team as high scorer with an average of 23 to 30 points a game.

Affronti attended St. Charles Borromeo Grammar School and Aquinas Institute. He also attended St. John Fisher College for a year.

According to the reports from the Milton and Boston papers about two of the games, "Curry was down after the first five minutes, 15-4 but its high scorer Buddy Affronti got off the bench and hit for eight straight points to get his team clicking. He was high with 28 points. In another game it said, "Buddy Affronti's 27 points sparked the Curry win. This made the seventh straight win of the season."

Buddy, besides distinguishing himself in basketball has made the dean's list, is professor of a group of students and is gaining much advantage in his experience and knowledge for his future in this college.

## Catholic Books

Washington—(RNS)—A total of 1,476 Catholic books was published in the U.S. during 1963, according to the director of libraries at the Catholic University of America here.

## YOUNG MEN

CAN YOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE TO SERVE CHRIST IN THE ORDER OF OUR LADY OF MERCY Founded in the 13th Century? WRITE TO: VOCATIONAL DIRECTOR St. Elizabeth's Hospital 1200 New York Ave. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20007

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