



Participants in Catholic Education Conference took time between sessions for informal discussions. Biggest parish group came from Dansville.

Parents Air Views on Schools

The "emerging laymen" of the Diocese of Rochester turned out in inspiring numbers to demonstrate their interest in Catholic education at a conference Saturday, May 15, at Nazareth College.

More than 400 delegates from 55 parishes, including a goodly number of pastors, school principals and teachers took over the Nazareth campus for a day. It was the first annual conference of the newly founded Catholic Educational Congress and from every angle, it was a smash success.

"Frank and open discussion" of Catholic education was promoted by chairman Gardiner Wales, convention chairman, in his opening address. Three keynote speakers and six talented panelists provided ample grist for the mills of discussion during the day.

Delegations drove in from all over the Diocese. Name-tags showed Catholic parents, pastors and educators from Ithaca, Elmira, Corning, Auburn and all points.

"Not a forum for carping criticism," stated Father William Roche, superintendent of Diocesan schools, in reference to the convention, "but a forum which can develop our strength and marshal our forces to provide better education for the children of our diocese."

Keynote speakers, representing the viewpoints of pastor, parents and principal were Father Edward Lintz, Dr. Harvey Fox and Sister M. Jamesella, who elaborated on the theme that "Education belongs to the whole community."

"Parents are asking the right questions, and have a right to the correct answers," said Sister Jamesella, in discussing the value of Home-School associations.

their child has some major problem in school," urged Dr. Fox, parent of four from Blessed Sacrament parish, "but should go out to meet teachers at every available opportunity."

While the pastor has the final responsibility for his own parish school, he would be unwise if he failed to take advantage of the special competence possessed by laymen in his parish, Father Lintz maintained. He felt that pastors should have at least an advisory board including school parents, if not a full-fledged board of education.

A REPORT on the first county-wide Catholic school board in the Diocese was given at the convention luncheon. Urban Faubion, St. Mary's parish, Auburn, gave some highlights on the first year's history of that group, which covers Cayuga County parochial schools.

"Lay teachers add a new balance to our schools," said attorney Harold Bayer, St. Thomas the Apostle parish, Rochester, during a session on "Lay Teachers in the Catholic School."

"Their experience can provide a vital new ingredient," Bayer claimed, and "as laymen, these teachers can provide a fine image of the Christian in the world."

"Religious (sisters and brothers) will always be the core of our system," he went on, "but the new combination of religious and lay teachers will actually give us a more effective educational approach."

"Parents will react more favorably to lay teachers, was the point made by both a lay teacher and a non-principal on this panel. Mrs. Herbert Eby, of Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral parish, and Sister Joann, St. Thomas the Apostle principal, agreed on this point,

while noting that, understandably, some pupils worked better with a nun teacher.

Home-School associations provide one channel for parents to fulfill their responsibility for involvement in their children's education, three other panelists pointed out.

"These groups can unify home and school, if we enter into them," stated David DeMarle, president of a Home-School unit in St. Lawrence, Greece.

They provide information and "most of all, much-needed communication" between parent and school, added Mrs. James Scott, parent of Christ the King parish.

"Such groups develop the rapport between parents and teachers that makes educational cooperation easy," said principal Sister M. Terrance, R.S.M., of St. Mary's, Bath.

Value of education TV programs was brought out by John Porter, executive director of the Rochester Area Educational Television Association, in the "Use of Community Resources Panel."

"It's one answer to the need for disseminating the ever-increasing mass of information," he argued. TV brings into the classrooms many sources not usually available to the teacher, he went on.

"The city of Rochester has more educational resources available than any other city of its size," was the claim of Dr. Catherine Broderick, assistant superintendent for instruction in the Rochester public schools.

Teachers must learn to reach out — and find out, what resources are at their disposal, she added.

One of the most eye-opening panels was that devoted to "Finances in the Catholic School."

Delegates heard Monsignor Arthur E. Ratigan, pastor of St. Ambrose parish, outline several valuable possibilities in this crucial area, including:

Sharing of facilities with public schools, centralization of parochial schools, standardization of buildings for greater efficiency and increased participation of laymen on parish and diocesan school boards or advisory committees.

Conference here, saying he "lovingly imparts and pledges abiding Divine assistance and heavenly favors in this noble endeavor."

Archbishop John J. Krol of Philadelphia, elected president of the organization, said launching of the Carta Foundation is a "significant and historical event in the history of the Church in the U.S." He said it will eventually make it possible to present the Gospel to "millions who don't know the Catholic Church."

He said there are now 100 dioceses in the nation which carry on some kind of radio or television programming. The purpose of the national office will be to coordinate programming wherever it is desired, as well as developing creative programs, and eventually in producing them.

Government aid is an ever-increasing possibility for Catholic education, noted attorney Francis X. Donovan of Sacred Heart Cathedral parish, but emphasis must rest on aid to the student rather than to the school directly.

Ways of deepening "Communication Between Home and School" were explored in another panel.

"School handbooks, and newsletters to parents are great for keeping parents posted," advised Dr. Andrew Virgilio, principal of Brockport's Campus School.

AN "OPEN DOOR" policy toward parents builds mutual understanding and respect, which are the basis for fine home-school relationships, commented Sister Clare Francis, S.S.J., principal of Ithaca's Immaculate Conception School.

Gathering for a closing session, the delegates heard chairman Wales sum up the future goal of the Catholic Educational Congress:

"We are intent on the pursuit of educational excellence through the community involvement of pastor, teachers and parents," he summed up.

"We've been handed—by our parents, the most magnificent Catholic school system in the world," he pointed out, urging his 400-plus hearers, not merely to conserve, but to extend and enrich this educational heritage.

The spirit of the delegates, as they headed home to their own parishes, with a new vision of the possibilities in "community involvement," seemed to indicate that they are determined to do just that.

—Fahit Robert Kaske



New at N.Y. Fair

New York — (RNS) — Among new displays in the Vatican Pavilion at the New York World's Fair is the 40-inch high statue of St. John and the Lamb. Loaned to the fair by a New York gallery proprietor, the white marble work has been the subject of considerable controversy in the art world, with experts divided as to whether it is the work of Michelangelo. The statue, insured for \$2,500,000, is on view behind a bulletproof plastic and glass case. Unusual photograph was taken by George Braun.

No Change On Jewish Statement

Vatican City — (RNS) — Rumors of changes in the Vatican Council's statement exculpating the Jews from the ancient decree charge were categorically denied once more by a spokesman for the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity.

The secretariat, headed by Cardinal Augustin Bea, held sessions to review the Council's statement in the light of suggestions made by those bishops who had approved the declaration "with reservations" at the Council's session last year.

In November the statement received preliminary approval by the overwhelming vote of 1,992 to 99. Only a few of the Council Fathers voted for the statement with reservations.

The secretariat spokesman also refuted rumors that a four-member ultra-conservative "ad hoc conciliar commission" was empowered to review the Catholic-Jewish statement. He explained that any alteration or revision in contradiction to the content and spirit of the statement as approved last year would be automatically rejected under rules of the Vatican Council.

Similar revision reports has been quashed in April while Cardinal Bea was in New York. At that time, Father Stephen Schmidt, the cardinal's personal secretary, who said he was authorized to speak for the Prince of the Church, said "there is absolutely no truth" to rumors that the statement was being changed or modified.

Arab Statesman Visits Pontiff

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI received President Charles Helou of Lebanon in a 40-minute private audience at the Vatican, but no official announcement was made of topics discussed.

The Vatican Radio remained silent on the subject of their private conversation and did not refer to persistent rumors in Arab countries that Mr. Helou was to discuss with the Pope the Vatican Council's declaration abolishing the Jewish people from the ancient charge oficide. The statement has been strongly opposed by Arabs.

Catholic Church in U.S.

Step-up in Radio, TV

Washington — (RNS) — A major step was taken here to launch an organized and effective Roman Catholic radio and television ministry with inauguration of the National Carta Foundation — a group which will serve as a coordinating office of radio and television communications.

Joseph Cardinal Ritter, Archbishop of St. Louis and a prime mover in getting Carta — (National Catholic Radio and Television Apostolate) underway in May last year, termed the event "a red letter day for the Church." He hailed it as using "in the modern world, modern methods of preaching the Gospel of Christ."

The organization, which, within six to ten months, will set down guidelines and principles for making grants to Catholic

groups entering the broadcasting field, also seeks to "sell" Catholics on the merits of ministering via the mass media.

Cardinal Ritter said the work of Carta and the radio and television efforts which will result, promise "a tremendously important ministry for the Church."

Last May, Cardinal Ritter invited leaders of 35 Catholic fraternal societies to St. Louis to hear plans for the foundation and to urge them to participate in it "as a modern apostolic and fraternal project." That same month it was incorporated as a non-profit organization. The following month, episcopal and lay members were named to the Board of Directors.

Pope Paul VI sent his greetings to the participants at the

conference here, saying he "lovingly imparts and pledges abiding Divine assistance and heavenly favors in this noble endeavor."

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Rummage Sale For Charity

The Mother Seton committee of Elmira Ladies of Charity will hold their annual rummage sale today (Friday) at the Southside YMCA rooms West Miller and Penna. Ave. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Proceeds will be used in the interests of charity.

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