

# College Apostolate, a Challenge to Nuns

Washington (NC) — Many more nuns are needed on secular campuses to participate in the "apostolate of being," a nun involved in Newman work said in an interview here.

Most of her work involves "being available" when students need her, said Sister Mary Frederick, a Dominican nun assigned to the Akron University Newman center.

The work of a nun on a secular campus is "very unstructured," Sister Frederick said.

"It's not like teaching elementary or high school," she added. "You can't sit down at the end of the day and say, 'Well, I think most of them understand how to find the hypotenuse of a square,' or, 'I think most of them understand the causes of the American Revolution.'"

"There's not too much concrete. You can't evaluate it. You're representing Christ to the students."

The presence of a Sister on

the secular campus is "most advantageous," she said, because many people are at ease with a Sister.

At the national Newman Congress in New York last summer, she said, "when a priest and a sister walked down the street together, people would look at the priest, but speak to the sister."

"With the priest's collar, you can't be sure what it means. He could be a priest or a minister or a seminarian. But the Sister's religious habit speaks of dedication."

Sister Frederick said she has had "a very good reaction from the students" to her presence.

Public education have a stereotyped view of a man. But after they meet you they accept you as a woman, or they don't associate that view with you," she commented.

This is so, she said, because "you don't have to be a disciplinarian. You're there as one of them, to help them."

"I never thought of myself as a chaperone, even at the social functions," she added. "If there's a dance, for instance, I'd be there, but not as a chaperone. It would be in the sense of, 'What are you doing? I want to see you.'"

Her work, she feels, is "as important as the educational work of Sisters. In fact, because the proportion of chaplains and

nuns to students on secular campuses is so great, the need for more nuns in Newman work is greater."

STUDENTS TODAY are "questioning their faith," she said.

Does she stimulate this questioning? "I try to stimulate a greater understanding of the faith, and if this is stimulating the questioning of the faith, then that's what I'm doing."

One of the projects established in cooperation with the Protestant chaplain on campus is a joint "coffee house" after all home basketball games.

"We have dim lights, red and white checkered tablecloths and candles," Sister Frederick said.

"We're encouraging people to read poetry they've written or get up on a soapbox and speak on something they feel strongly about."

A showing of "The Parable," a controversial film screened at the New York World's Fair, is scheduled for a future coffee house.

Eleven courses on religious topics are offered at the Newman center.

"We try to hold a discussion-type class. I encouraged boys to sign up for a course on the woman's role, so we could get a discussion between boys and girls. They think in different ways. I'm expecting some interesting discussions," she said.

Good relations with Protestants on campus are encouraged. "The Protestant minister on campus had a class, and I spoke to them twice. Of course, they

were most interested in the life of a nun. Then we had a spaghetti dinner for the Protestants, and tried to show them the five proofs of Thomas Aquinas for the existence of God."

The Protestant minister, she said, is a frequent visitor. "His more active students, of course, know they're welcome, and they come down. In fact, we have an Indian student who is a Hindu and a regular paid member."

What effect does she have on the non-Catholic students? "If nothing else, I hope that students seeing me on campus would be cognizant of the fact that there is a woman who is in love with God, who has dedicated her life to Him."

"And I hope they would have respect for her and for her Church."

## Priests Ask Celibacy Ends

Rome (RNS) — A group of Catholic priests in Southern Italy have urged Pope Paul VI to abolish the Church discipline which makes celibacy a condition for ordination to the priesthood.

The priests, in a letter to the pontiff, argued that celibacy was neither natural nor divine in itself, and marriage was not contrary to the celebrations of the divine mysteries.

Quoting Genesis 2, 18 in which God says "it is not good for man to be alone," signers of the letter pleaded that this rule be applied "to priests in need."

## Swiss M Against

Bern (NC) — Forster Friedrich, Swiss parliament member, has moved 19th-century against the Jesuit he said such a step receive support by public.

Jesuits have been to carry on public a this country by a provision in 1874 of the anti-religious kamp" in Switzerland provision of the forbids the founding religious houses.

Wahlen said the spirit prevailing in the state has removed material prejudices. He



Bishop Moran

Bishop William J. Moran received the Distinguished Service Medal for "exceptionally meritorious service" as Deputy Chief of Army Chaplains, prior to retiring from the Chaplaincy Corps on Jan. 31. Bishop Moran, a brigadier general, has been Deputy Chief of Chaplains since Nov. 1, 1958. He is leaving this post to assume new duties as Auxiliary Bishop of Cardinal Spellman of New York in his capacity as Military Vicar to Catholics in the U.S. Armed Forces. A military chaplain for more than 30 years, Bishop Moran has also received the Bronze Star Medal, the Order of the Crown of Italy (Commander) and various other service medals and ribbons.

## Could 'Cripple' Public Schools Says Methodist

Minneapolis (RNS) — Methodist Bishop Richard C. Raines of Indianapolis said in a lecture here that pressure for public support of parochial schools is "one of the most serious of the disturbing facts which America must face in its life today."

The bishop, who heads the Indiana Area of The Methodist Church, warned that such aid could "severely cripple" public schools and lead many religious groups to begin their own parochial school systems.

"We could see duplicated in America what happened to The Netherlands in 1921 when that nation elected to subsidize religious schools," he said in opening a lecture series at Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church, where he once served as pastor.

"Public schools (in The Netherlands) have decreased from 56 to 20 per cent of the total. The growth of sectarian schools has aggravated religious tensions in Holland until the nation is compartmentalized along religious lines."

Bishop Raines observed that "it may seem a somewhat inappropriate time shortly after the close of the Vatican Council and the warmer relations which we all welcome... to bring up an issue which has always sharply divided us, and still does."

"I welcome and would further in every legitimate way the cordial conversations and cooperation between the Catholic and Protestant Churches, but I would not think sound friendship involved betraying the principles upon which I believe the welfare of the entire country, both Catholic and Protestant, ultimately rest."

## Cardinal Urges Contact With 'Low Church'

London (RNS) — The Roman Catholic Primate of England, in citing the growth of friendship with the Anglican Church, remarked here that the dialogue had been somewhat "one-sided," almost exclusively with the "High Church."

"The time has come," said John Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, "to seek friendly intercourse with the whole of the Church of England. The Low Church and the Evangelicals know little of us and we little of them. The fact that they have less taste for ritual and vestments than their High Church brethren does not make them any less acceptable partners in a dialogue."

"Nor must we forget our friends in the Free Churches," the Catholic Primate added in a sermon. "I shall be meeting their leaders, both clergy and laity, in a few days and I hope this will be the beginning of a fruitful encounter."

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