

Laymen Convene Own Council

Chicago — (RNS) — Plans for the formation of a Chicago Conference of Laymen were announced here by a group of leading Catholic laymen and women who seek to expand the role of the laity in the decision-making process of the Chicago archdiocese.

The Conference is scheduled to be established at a meeting on "Laymen and the Renewal of the Church" on April 2 at the University of Chicago's Center for Continuing Education.

SPONSORS SAID the meeting is "unprecedented in that it is called by laymen themselves and will address itself to the expectations of Chicago laymen regarding the implementation in the Archdiocese of Chicago of reforms called for by the Vatican Council."

According to the convenors, the meeting will have these specific purposes: "To consider the commitment of free men in the post-Conciliar Church; to focus the concerns and hopes of Chicago laymen on their place in the Church, to discuss and adopt a manifesto in order to make our goals clear and specific."

A Modern Idiom For Ancient Faith

New York — (RNS) — "God" is the general topic chosen for the first of a new series of essays titled "Commonweal Papers" issued here by the lay-edited Catholic magazine, "Commonweal."

The subject was chosen, according to associate editor John Leo, "because of the intense interest shown lately in the problem of God. The death of God controversy and the effort to 'translate' the God of tradition and former cultures into a modern idiom."

Like the first in the series, future "Commonweal Papers" will devote an entire issue of the magazine to interrelated essays which provide an in-depth study of a particular theme.

Seven philosophers and theologians from Catholic universities and seminaries have contributed articles to the first "Commonweal Paper." They are:

Father David B. Burrell, C.S.C., of Notre Dame University, James Collins of St. Louis University, Leslie Dewart of St. Michael's College University of Toronto, Father John S. Dunne, C.S.C., of Notre Dame, Louis Dupre of Georgetown, Brother Gabriel Moran, F.S.C., of Manhattan College and Father Bruce Vawter, C.M., of Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis.

In the issue's opening article, Brother Gabriel Moran, discusses the nature of divine revelation and contrasts two attitudes — one which considers revelation as a fixed, static body of knowledge which has been given once and for all and is unchangeable; the other (developed only recently among Catholics) considering revelation as a continuing, dynamic process.

"The question today," Brother Gabriel says, "is not whether there is revealed data but whether there is a God who reveals. A God who once spoke but now speaks no more is not only uninteresting but unintelligible."

Criticizing the attitude that revelation is "something that the Church possesses rather than what God is now doing," he warned against identifying revelation "with some thing finite."

In a key paragraph, he quotes an idea of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Karl Barth that "the most subtle enemy of faith and revelation... is religion."

"In this context," he comments, "religion would be the supposition that revealed truths are a substitute for a revealing God. When such a notion gains ascendancy, the role of the community leader becomes that of a dispenser of revealed truths. The rest of the community is then under pressure to accept these truths and conform to them. Not only is this notion of revealed truth inhibitive of personal faith and mature freedom, it is creative of an idolatrous situation."

"For a revealed truth in

ance or dissent from episcopal authority for which we have genuine respect, but as an initiative which is appropriate and necessary if we, laymen, are to have genuine communication with episcopal authority."

Asserting that "it is a new day in the Church" and that "the day of the adult layman has begun," the announcement emphasized that the Church "cannot be renewed, cannot fulfill her mission unless laymen are able to have a meaningful share in her life — in terms of their power and presence in decision-making and their freedom to play a prophetic role."

The manifesto expected to be adopted at the sessions calls for discussions between Archbishop John P. Cody of Chicago and representative laymen on such issues as:

"Development of Council plans at the parish, vicariate and diocesan levels; expansion of Catholic school board responsibility and lay membership; and clarification of the nature of archdiocesan financial accountability and of the practices associated with it."

It also urges the "development of a method whereby Catholic laymen of Chicago can play a role in selection of the major ecclesiastical officials of their archdiocese."

Diploma Sunday For Catechists

A graduation rite for 207 catechists from close to 50 parishes of the Diocese will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral Sunday, May 14, at 4 p.m.

Bishop Sheen will celebrate Mass and speak at the graduation ceremony.

The catechist's diploma represents a year of study at one of three religious centers — at Ithaca, Fairport and Greece.

Monsignor Albert H. Schnazy, diocesan director of the Congregation of Christian Doctrine, and Sister Marietta of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, aided in arranging the catechists' instruction program and Sunday's graduation rite.

Most of the graduates will aid in instructing children in parish religious education programs.

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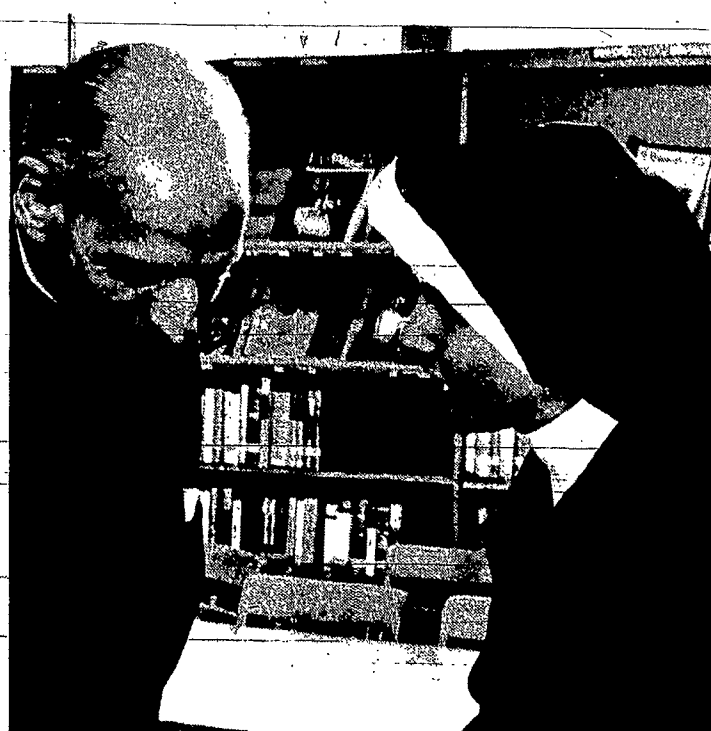
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Clergy, nuns and lay people were on hand to greet Father Arrupe in his brief stop at McQuaid Jesuit High School.



Toynbee and Arrupe

No Fear of the 'New World'

By REV. ALBERT P. BARTLETT, S.J., Rector, McQuaid Jesuit High School

Pedro Arrupe, former medical student at the University of Madrid, changed the course of his life when he saw the slums of Spain, and the sick at Lourdes.

He is now the General of the Jesuit Order. In between that medical career and his missionary life, he was driven from Spain during that country's Civil War.

During the second World War he was imprisoned by the Japanese military state, where, at Yamaguchi, he was accused of political subversion. Asked, "Do you believe in the divinity of the Emperor of Japan?" he replied, "Do you believe the Emperor of Japan created the Universe?" The magistrate dismissed the case.

It was this same, slight, ascetical man who last Friday afternoon addressed the McQuaid Jesuits, Rochester's descendants of the group which was suppressed in 1773 by Pope Clement XIV, with his remark, "It is impossible to maintain a true and lasting peace in the Church while this Order exists."

Communication — Father Arrupe explained at McQuaid, the reason for his visit — "To get in touch." With so many changes, with such new attitudes, there is need for constant communication in the Society of Jesus, and in the Church. Without this communication, there will be not only lack of knowledge and information, but also lack of understanding.

Congregation — Referring to the recently concluded General Congregation of the Jesuit Order, held in Rome, Father Arrupe called attention to the Decrees of that 31st Congregation, noting the danger of putting documents on the shelf. "The decrees are a challenge to remain the same in fundamental spiritual principles, but a catalyst to change — to be relevant to the present-day world. Change may involve mistakes," he remarked. "We will not defend our mistakes, but, neither will we make the greatest mistake, that of waiting and doing nothing for fear of making a mistake."

Commitment — "Dialogue and discussion are necessary, but they must lead to dedication — dialogue to know the will of God — dedication to do it. And this must be a supernatural dedication. Take this away, and we are a group of fools. Our life has no meaning."

He explained the meaning of a Jesuit in today's world with the word "mission-sent." So, the Jesuit is one who is sent — to do the will of Christ.

Presently, 593 American Jesuits have been "sent" to 119 universities in 33 countries.

In the United States alone, they are now on the campus of Harvard, Princeton, Yale, M.I.T., Chicago, Cornell, Columbia, California, Michigan, Wisconsin, Rochester, and others, studying Classics, English, History, Computer Science, Geophysics, Industrial Relations, Political Philosophy, Psychiatry, and doing special work in fields ranging from cosmic radiation to cancer research, television and radio. In addition they run 70 universities, colleges and high schools of their own.

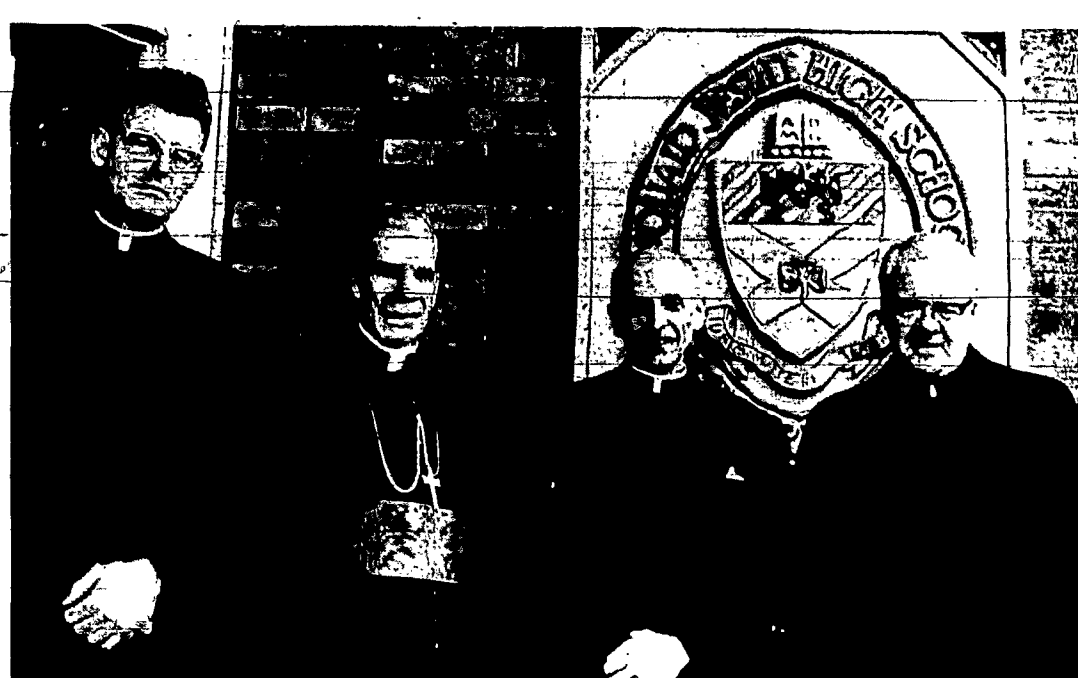
The Provincial's Cup, donated by LeMoyne College, is symbolic of debate supremacy among Jesuit high schools in the Buffalo Province of the Society of Jesus. In the six years of its existence, McQuaid has won it five times.

The Buffalo debate was attended by some 150 parents of Canisius High School.

Combs and Hennessy will next compete for the national debate crown in Nashville, Tenn. in June.



Bishop Sheen and Father Arrupe, both of whom have a long experience in the Church's worldwide mission work, had a brief private visit when Jesuit General came to Rochester last week.



Bishop Sheen welcomed Jesuit Father General Peter Arrupe to Rochester's McQuaid Jesuit High School last week. Father Albert Bartlett, McQuaid rector, and Father Cornelius Carr, provincial superior of upstate New York Jesuits, are shown with the two prelates at the high school's entrance.

He insisted that in this age of change and disorientation, theological confusion and sociological upheaval, we must be as relevant to the 20th century as St. Ignatius Loyola was to the 16th century. Biology, chemistry, physics are vital, but they are not the answer to present problems. Father Arrupe insisted, as does Arnold Toynbee, that man's problem is always basically theological. This explains Arrupe's concern with modern atheism — and a world in conflict over two basically different theologies.

After questioning the efficacy of alumni activities, which consist in feasts and reminiscences, he concluded by observing that the American pluralistic society has much to teach us in matters of human freedom and religious dialogue, and commented that at times boldness must outstrip prudence.

"It is not the new world I fear. I only fear lest we give yesterday's answers to tomorrow's problems."

Faculty Promotions Announced at Nazareth

Faculty promotions at Nazareth College have been announced by Sister Helen Daniel, president.

Sister Mary Lourdes, Ph.D., Department of Theology, and Dr. Mary Bush, History Department, to full professor.

Sister Jeanne, acting chairman of Music and Sister Madeleine Therese, Education Department, to associate professor.

Dr. Anthony Barraco appointed chairman of the Education Department and Dr. Richard Donovan, who will return to Nazareth College this summer, to chairmanship of the English Department; Sister Dorothea White.

acting chairman of the Mathematics Department.

The following members of the faculty have been named faculty emeriti next year: Sister Agnes Patricia, Sister Paulette, Sister Raphael, Sister Mary Francis and Miss Rosemary White.

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