



A Meditation for Thanksgiving Day --- 'Command those who are rich in the things of this life not to be proud, and to place their hope, not on such an uncertain thing as riches, but on God, who generously gives us everything for us to enjoy. Command them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share with others. In this way they will store up for themselves a treasure which will be a solid foundation for the future. And then they will be able to win the life which is true life.'

--- St. Paul to Timothy.

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New 'Blueprint' for Schools

By WILLIAM RYAN

Washington — (NC) — The preliminary draft of a report prepared by members of a high level symposium on Catholic education here says that the Church is in the business of operating schools for keeps.

At a time when some teachers have forsaken the classroom for more "relevant" work in the ghettos, the statement reaffirms the importance of the classroom teacher.

"It is our conviction that all men and women — priests, religious or laymen — be they involved in public or private education — are serving the Church and Christ," it says. "They are to be commended for the investment of their lives in the formation of others."

But the statement also opens the door to a host of innovative experiments in Catholic education including school-home programs, non-graded schools, family-centered education, interfaith schools, and attempts to give a shot in the arm to such endeavors as the Newman Apostolate and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD).

The draft statement was prepared by participants at a symposium on the problems and goals of Catholic education arranged by the National Catholic Educational Association. NCEA is a non-policy making but influential organization which provides for an exchange of ideas and services among Catholic educators.

More than 100 Catholic and

non-Catholic educators, writers, representatives of private agencies and government officials took part in the five-day discussions, and were expected to issue a "blueprint" for the future of Catholic education. Before they could do so, however, the clock ran out.

"The document was too large a bite for them to digest in such a small time as we had," said Father C. Albert Koob, O. Praem., NCEA executive secretary.

The draft, put together from recommendations made by the participants, was given to them only hours before the symposium was to close. There was insufficient time to allow for the incorporation of dissenting

opinions or for further suggestions and revisions.

The diversity of views and interests among Catholic educators was apparent early in the symposium. "The whole thing is filled with special interest groups, and naturally each is going to make its plea," commented Dr. William H. Conley, president of Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport, Conn.

Among the "special interest" groups:

—Those who stressed that Catholic education as broader than its parochial school system, and who asked that the Church's investment in education be more equitably distributed.

—A group of Catholic school superintendents who were concerned at the outset that the apostles of "broad" education might want to burn down the schools and start from scratch. Monsignor William M. Roche of Rochester, N.Y., made clear his belief that all educational "experiments" should be done without prejudice to the existing school system.

The document recommends that control of the educational system be placed in the hands of the "total public" served by the educational programs of the diocese — presumably through the formation of boards of education. But it calls for an honest assessment of how fairly the Church's human and fiscal resources are placed at the educational disposal of all, including children who don't attend parochial schools.

Lots to Read Inside

Sister Immaculate elected National head of her order — See Page 7A

Results to step up interracial work — See Page 5A

Fifty years at Charles Settlement House — See Page 1B

Around the World 2A and 3A
Editorial Features 4A
Entertainment 13A
School News 15A
Spectrum of Opinion 7B
Sports 10A
Want Ads 14A
Women 6A

'Universal Trial' Confronts Church

Bishop Sheen's eloquence was heard in Chicago and Washington this past week — he spoke to mission directors in the windy city and to the nation's Catholic bishops at their meeting in the capital.

In his talk to the diocesan mission directors — like Monsignor John F. Duffy of the Rochester Diocese — Bishop Sheen spoke of the "tenuous balance" of conflicting forces required in today's world.

He alluded to the specific secular and spiritual needs of Church missions and said both types must be met to maintain the delicate balance created by pressing world realities.

"The Church is suffering today from demonic forces," he exclaimed, saying that he knew of no other explanation of the fact that a deep unrest and lack of peace was reported by bishops from Oceania, Africa and Asia, as well as by those from the Western world, at the Synod of Bishops (in Rome in October).

He also spoke of a recent personal audience granted him by Pope Paul and told of saying to the Pope: "I know that you are in anguish."

Pope Paul, he reported, answered: "Yes, but I find consolation." He then told Bishop Sheen of his joy in seeing and talking with an intent missionary priest with years of service behind him.

At the meeting of the U.S. bishops in Washington, Bishop Sheen reported on his October meeting in Rome of the Synod of Bishops — representatives of national hierarchies around the world.

He said that questions raised in the Church in the United States today are the same problems faced all over the world.

Hence, he said, these questions are not just cultural, but international.

He said he thought we are now in a period of "universal trial" permitted by God.

Other U.S. prelates who attended the Synod also reported on the various aspects of the meeting.

A brief report on the Synod of Bishops presented by Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit and Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia recalled that all U.S. bishops had been asked by mail to suggest topics for their delegates to present in Rome; that all replies had been collated; that the U.S. bishops met privately each afternoon to analyze discussions that had taken

place and to agree on positions for future discussions; that preference was given at the Synod to any bishop who spoke in the name of a national conference, that only one bishop could speak for a conference, but that each bishop was permitted to speak himself if he wished.

The report said the level of discussion at the Synod was better than that of the Second Vatican Council. It was also said the requirement of secrecy gave the discussions more candor than would have been possible had the names of speakers been reported in the press. The requirement of secrecy was particularly helpful to bishops from behind the Iron Curtain, it was stated.

(Continued on Page 2A)



MONSIGNOR GFELL

Death Breaks Link to Early Days of Diocese

One of the few remaining links with Rochester's first bishop was broken this week.

Monsignor Joseph E. Gfell, 88, ordained by Bishop McQuaid in 1902, died Saturday, Nov. 11, 1967.

Bishop Kearney said the funeral Mass and grave the eulogy for Monsignor Gfell at Holy Family Church Wednesday morning. He compared his life to that of his patron saint, St. Joseph, and described how well Monsignor Gfell exemplified the life of his patron.

Long before Catholics talked about "emerging laymen" Monsignor Gfell was a pioneer in spurring lay people to a more

Continued on Page 8A

Poor People in United States Victims of Vietnam War

Boston — (RNS) — The National Catholic Social Action Conference, deploring the "continued escalation" of the war in Vietnam, has urged President Johnson to take "new initiatives toward immediate negotiations."

In a resolution voted by the NCSAC executive committee here, the President was asked to conduct negotiations with "all interested parties including the National Liberation Front."

The Catholic action unit maintained that the Vietnam war places a "heavy" burden upon the poor in the United States, "both in the monies which should otherwise be used in poverty programs and in the disproportionate number of the poor being drafted under the present selective service system."

The resolution endorsed the calls of Pope Paul VI and the third World Congress of Lay Apostolate for "a cessation of war and an encouragement of peace."

Formed in 1957, the NCSAC membership comprises individuals and groups from labor, management, rural and urban life and others interested in Catholic social action.

Where's Pope's Tiara Now?

New York — (CPF)—Whatever happened to Pope Paul's coronation tiara, presented to "the people of America" exactly three years ago?

This is certain to become the new \$24,000 question now that a Papal cross and ring have just been auctioned for that

amount at a leading art gallery here, with the money going to four U.N. charitable organizations.

When Pope Paul placed his tiara in the custody of New York's Cardinal Spellman in mid-November of 1964 — after dramatically interrupting Vatican Council deliberations on world poverty to place his triple crown on the altar of St. Peter's Basilica as a pledge of "the many and grave words spoken here concerning the misery and hunger of these days" — there was considerable controversy over what should be done with the tiara.

When it was announced that the tiara would go "on display," it was argued that the poor, for whom the Pope's gesture was intended, would benefit much more if the tiara were either melted down and its silver and jewels sold, or — better yet — if it were auctioned off. The latter idea is likely to be renewed following the auction of the Papal ring and cross, especially when the successful bidder — a Chicago jeweler named Harry Levinson — revealed, "I

was prepared to go as high as \$100,000."

(The bejeweled, seven-inch-high cross and the ring were given to United Nations Secretary General U Thant by Pope Paul during his visit to the U.N. in October, 1964, and were to be used to "alleviate human suffering." The auction money is to go to the U.N. Children's Fund, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.)

The coronation tiara is currently in a glass display case in the reception room of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, on the 18th floor of a building at Madison Avenue and 42nd Street. After the first of the year revealed Mgr. John G. Nolas, the association's national secretary, the tiara is scheduled to be put on permanent display in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

But his accounting of "whatever happened" to the tiara dur-

(Continued on Page 16-A)



Nuns get a close-up view of papal tiara at educational exhibit. Display in background pictures poverty in Middle East.

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