



Notre Dame, Ind. — (RNS) — Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, Apostolic Delegate to the U.S. (right), celebrated Mass, delivered the sermon and brought papal greetings at celebrations marking the 125th anniversary of Notre Dame University. The papal envoy is shown with Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president of Notre Dame, who presented an honorary degree to Archbishop Raimondi.

N.D. Birthday

Notre Dame, Ind. — (RNS) — "Greatness" is the goal set for the University of Notre Dame by its president, Father Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C.

The man who aimed at "excellence" a decade ago, thus broadened his concept of the midwestern institution's destiny. "Greatness" was a recurring theme in a gathering of educators that marked the 125th anniversary of Notre Dame.

A great Catholic university, Father Hesburgh said, "must begin by being a great university that is also Catholic." As a great university, it will be "a community of scholars" and "a place where all the relevant questions are asked and where answers are elaborated in an atmosphere of freedom and responsible inquiry."

The Catholic university, he added, must encompass also a "centrality of philosophy and especially theology among its intellectual concerns. The presence of philosophy and theology simply completes the total field of inquiry, raises additional and ultimate questions, moves every scholar to look beyond his immediate field of vision to the total landscape of God and man and the universe. . . . We can, in summary, give living, vital witness to the wholeness of truth from all sources, both human and divine, while recognizing the inner sacredness of all truth from whatever source and the validity and autonomy of all paths to truth."

Colleges and universities throughout the country sent delegates to the anniversary convocation.

A message from Pope Paul VI expressed a hope that Notre Dame might "ever be an ardent beacon of faith and truth."

President Johnson's message described Notre Dame as "one of the great universities of the world."

"I am confident that, so long as our nation endures," the president declared, "Notre Dame will continue to add luster to herself and distinction to our country."

Father Hesburgh said "the Catholic university can fulfill (the) first function of the human mind seeking faith, and faith reaching out for an expression adequate to our times." He added that it must also be "a bridge across all the chasms that separate modern men from each other," whether the chasms reflect age, race, economic circumstance, belief, or any other conditions.

He declared that the Catholic university "must be a place where all the intellectual and moral currents of our times

meet and are thoughtfully considered."

"I should add frankly at this time," Father Hesburgh continued, "that many people in the university world and outside it take a dim view of the very possibility of a Catholic university."

He cited George Bernard Shaw's view that "Catholic university" was a contradiction in terms, and said that the answer would have to be "that a university does not cease to be free because it is Catholic."

He referred also to Dr. Harvey Cox's statement in "The Secular City," that in university education "the organizational church has no role."

"What can be done by Christians in a secular university can be done equally well, if not better, in a Christian university," Father Hesburgh declared.

He added that Dr. Rosemary Lauer, formerly of St. John's University, believed the church should get out of education, and recalled a statement by Jacques Grenan, who she secularized the formerly Catholic Webster College, that "juridical control by the church" was contrary to the nature of higher education.

Father Hesburgh said:

"In answering this objection, one sees the clear value of the initiative that Notre Dame took last year in placing the university under a new form of governance, a board of trustees completely comparable to any other university board, with more than four times as many lay as clerical members.

"Under this new form of governance, fully approved by the Holy See, the University of Notre Dame is a civil, non-profit, educational corporation, chartered by and operating under the civil law of the state of Indiana, totally directed by this largely lay board of trustees. To describe this as 'juridical control by the Church' would be simply untrue."

Father Hesburgh said that the university should not be ruled by external authority.

"In the modern Catholic university," he suggested, "every sincere and thoughtful man should be welcome, listened to and respected by a serious consideration of what he has to say about his belief or unbelief, his certainty or uncertainty.

"Here should be the home of the inquiring mind, and whatever the differences of religion, culture, race or nationality, here should be the place where love and civility give the conversation, the interest and the outcome."

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The voices of carolers fill the air and joy fills the hearts of the young. It is our wish that the spirit of this season will fill the hearts of all men with the message of Bethlehem . . . May there be true brotherhood among men and a world of peace and harmony.



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