

A Modern Teen Looks At Updated Church

The young man just named Outstanding Catholic Youth of the Year plans to study law and hopes to run for political office some day, but right now his main ambition, he says, is to sit down and write something called "A Modern Teenager Looks at His Updated Church."

William Seebeck, who was born in San Francisco but who has spent most of his 17 years on New York's Staten Island, talked about teenagers and the Church while eating a pancake breakfast at a Howard Johnson's in Times Square — not far from the Waldorf-Astoria where on Jan. 31 he received the outstanding-youth award from the National Catholic Youth Organization Federation, a division of the youth department of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

Seebeck's desire to write a kind of teenage answer to the James Kavanagh bestseller is not an impossible dream, for an editor of his school paper at Monsignor Farrell High School has won numerous journalism awards for his initiative, which resulted in—among other things—exclusive interviews with Richard M. Nixon and then mayoral-candidate William F. Buckley.

Now a freshman at Manhattan College, operated by the Christian Brothers, Seebeck wants to tell about teenagers and the Church partly to offset the bad image teenagers have received from today's press and partly to alert teenagers to the responsibilities and possibilities the post-conciliar Church offers to them.

"I like newspapers very much, but you hardly ever read about the good things they do," he said. "For instance, in Poughkeepsie, New York, teenagers took over a winery and made it into a CYO leadership training center. There are a lot of angles for a good story there, it might have attracted other teenagers to look into the CYO, but I didn't see it written up anywhere."

A former president of his parish, county, archdiocese, and state CYO and active on the national CYO level, Seebeck cites the eight million CYOs throughout the country and the more than 5,000 delegates they send to national CYO conventions each year.

"These are the people who will be your leaders some day, not the teenagers you read about in the newspaper headlines every day," he said.

In talks before CYO leadership groups and at conventions, Seebeck stresses a conviction

that today's Catholic youth should be apostles, but "apostles to other youth," primarily to teenagers.

"This is what Vatican II asked of teenagers," Seebeck explained. "The Christian must love his neighbor, but for teenagers, the 'neighbor' is another teenager."

"Adults, priests have trouble getting hip to teenagers. A teenager would rather listen to another teenager than to an adult. So if a teenager is in some kind of trouble — with drugs, for instance — for another teenager he is the 'neighbor' Christ is telling us to love and help."

Seebeck thinks that one of the contributions that teenagers can make to adults in their parishes is in explaining the meaning and importance of the new liturgy — for teenagers, who mingle with each other more frequently than do adults, more readily see the value of community worship, Seebeck observed.

"We're a community of Christians, and all the Mass is the community gathering together," he said.

Seebeck was first attracted to CYO by a young parish moderator, Rev. John J. Devlin, when Seebeck was 14. Shortly after

ward the priest died of hepatitis at the age of 28, but his enthusiasm for CYO was caught by Seebeck and inspired him.

He began as a parish program director for his CYO group, planning outings, dances ("you throw a dance, then you get people wandering around to meetings"), then worked up the ladder of CYO importance.

"There's an impression that CYO is nothing but sports," Seebeck complained, citing CYO's spiritual, cultural, social and apostolic programs.

Seebeck said that he, as well as many other CYOs, are still inspired by John F. Kennedy ("He spoke at one of our conventions just before he was killed, and I've seen a film of that convention at least a hundred times"). However, he is not a Robert F. Kennedy fan but, in fact, has great admiration for Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

On the Vietnam War, he favors loyalty to national policy decisions.

"I think you should never judge anything unless you've seen the problem from the inside," Seebeck commented. (Catholic Press Features)

Catholics Face It: Race Issues Vex Britain

By JOHN A. GREAVES
(NC News Service)

London — Catholics at long last are beginning to take a serious interest in the development of racism arising with the vast increase of colored immigrants. Asians as well as Negroes are termed "colored" in Britain.

The surge began some 10 years ago when the British Commonwealth began to split into independent nations. Some of their peoples were then allowed free entry to this country. They were welcomed usually as unskilled workers willing to take the lower-paid but essential jobs that British workers refused.

Gradually curbs were imposed as more came in than this overcrowded island could cope with. Housing, schools, social and welfare services were overtaxed, and racism began to develop.

Focus once more has been fixed on this problem with a sudden influx of Pakistanis from Kenya, former British colony, whose now independent

African government has begun to discriminate against Asians still holding British passports.

Britain's Labor party government is pushing through legislation to limit the influx of British citizens of Indian and Pakistani ancestry but it has conceded that no one forced out of his country or deprived of work will be turned away.

Many colored people here, especially from Africa and Asia, come from missionary territory. Quite a large number are Catholic, but few have been allowed to help them integrate into the parishes.

Surveys have indicated that Catholics here are less prejudiced against colored people than most, but they are trailing behind in the more positive work of fostering better race relations.

In London the Catholic Institute for International Relations, said that much has to be done in "race education" among Catholics. It will sponsor an educational program starting in July.

"Of course the whole problem boils down to parish renewal," a spokesman said. "Until we can get back a parish community spirit, we can make little headway with integrating immigrants."

A community spirit in the parishes, however, is not an easy thing to develop. People live in parishes for years sometimes without any other recognition from fellow-Catholics than a passing nod. This is a national problem.

In Birmingham, Britain's second largest city and a magnet for incoming colored people looking for work, Archbishop George Dwyer is planning a special race relations committee.

In Liverpool the young Christian Workers are surveying the special problems of immigrants, especially housing, employment and social barriers. They have formed a committee to educate the Catholic public, particularly young people, to recognize the immigrants' problems.

In Leeds, Catholics are planning to work alongside communists to send deputations to local civil authorities to make them "aware of the crisis in race relations," Father Michael Buckley of the local ecumenical center there said. "Too often Roman Catholics have acted separately. Where man has a common need there must be common action. We are prepared to work with anyone where the end is good."



Showing How Easter Seals Can Help

LYNDA BIRD JOHNSON finger paints with handicapped Easter Seal children. She co-starred with them in Hollywood to film a special TV appeal for the 1968 Easter Seal Campaign, March 1 to April 14.

Last Ripple of Boycott: Nun Dies; 61 Education Dean Replaced Years in Order

Courier News Summary

Washington — (NC) — The School of Education at Catholic University of America has been put under the temporary direction of a new acting dean, appointed as a result of the "academic freedom" controversy that erupted last Spring.

Monsignor Eugene Kevane, who stood almost alone against the faculty-student boycott that resulted in the reinstatement of Father Curran, a moral theology teacher.

Msgr. Kevane asserted during last spring's controversy that the real issue in the Curran case was loyalty to the Holy See.

He said that since the university was a pontifical institution administered by the U.S. bishops, the trustees' decision not to renew Father Curran's contract should have been accepted.

Supporters of Father Curran said the issue was academic freedom — the right of a professor to expound his views regardless of whether they displeased the board of trustees or other persons.

The committee that reported on Monsignor Kevane included Lawrence Cardinal Shehan of Baltimore, Cardinal O'Boyle, Archbishop Thomas J. McDonough of Louisville, Bishop John J. Russell of Richmond, and four laymen.

Since coming to the university as a candidate for the Ph.D. degree in education, Monsignor Kevane, 54, had risen rapidly in the world of higher education. Shortly after receiving his degree, he was appointed to head the education faculty.

Education, formerly a department within the graduate school of arts and sciences, was made an independent school at this time.

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Funeral Mass for Sister Teresa Vincent of the Sisters of St. Joseph was offered Thursday, Feb. 29, by Monsignor Richard K. Burns, assisted by Monsignor Albert Schnack.

Sister Teresa Vincent died Feb. 27. She had been principal of Holy Rosary and Blessed Sacrament schools, and of St. Peter & Paul School, Elmira, St. Patrick's, Corning, and St. Paul's, Oswego. She last taught at St. Mary's, Elmira.

Born in Riga, she entered the Community in 1905 from St. Mary's Parish, Rochester. She retired in 1959.

Bishop Kearney To Address "Irish"

Bishop James E. Kearney, National chaplain, will be guest speaker at the Knights of Equity and Friendly Sons of St. Patrick thirty-third annual banquet at the Manger Hotel Saturday, Mar. 16, at 7:00 p.m.

Miss Ellen Malone, harpist; Miss Ann McManis, of the Eastman School of Music, and the Knights of Equity Trio will entertain. Dancing will follow.

Mayor Frank T. Lamb will be guest of honor. Kenneth T. Power is chairman and Supreme Sir Knight George W. Moore is co-chairman. The daughters of Erin, headed by Mrs. Arthur T. Hart, will be the reception committee.

'Rapunzel' At Arts Center

"Rapunzel," the famous children's story, will come to the Nazareth College Arts Center Sat. March 16 at 1:30 p.m. presented by the Peter Pan Playhouse of Theatre East.

Tickets can be secured by calling Dudley 1-279 or writing Theatre East, P.O. Box 9870, Rochester, N.Y. 14623.

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STOCK MARKET REACTS IN CONTRARY MANNER

By HENR Central Press, Wash. WASHINGTON — The price changes have dropped 1 month, nearly all of the de several weeks following the decline on the stock market.

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