

Dangers of Dialogue with Atheists Considered

Vatican City — (RNS) — Is it possible for two persons or parties to engage beneficially in dialogue when they start from drastically different convictions?

This question is raised and answered affirmatively in a 32-page Latin document made public here by the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Believers.

In two introductory paragraphs and two extended chapters, the official guide,

entitled "Dialogue with Non-Believers," observes that at some persons see danger in such activity.

The instruction or guide was issued by the Secretariat for Non-Believers after preparations that began two years ago.

It declared that "Dialogue between believers and non-believers, while involving certain risks, is not only possible but desirable." It recommended that the training of students and seminarians include familiarization with modern currents of unbelief. The Secretariat is headed

by Franz Cardinal Koenig, Archbishop of Vienna, and was created by Pope Paul VI with the mandate to study modern atheism in its various forms and, when possible, "to enter into dialogue with those non-believers who sincerely agree to collaborate." The document gives only general suggestions and leaves specific conditions to local bishops.

Dialogue requires attention to the personal character of the acquisition of truth, the uniqueness of each individual in his particular situation and the limitations under which

everyone labors in his search for truth, the document states.

"On the other hand," it adds, "insofar as it is also a quest for truth, dialogue has no meaning unless one believes that the intellect can attain objective truth, at least to some extent, that it can always grasp some aspects of the truth, even if these may be mixed with error, and finally that each individual has a contribution to offer in the search for truth which others should take into account because of the very fact that one attains a view

of reality which is proper and unique to himself.

One worthy purpose of dialogue, the document points out, is that of "establishing collaboration between individuals, groups or communities with different or even opposed doctrinal positions." Many world problems call for such cooperation, the guidebook says.

Other aims of dialogue include the ending of isolation and mutual distrust, the establishment of an atmosphere of sympathy and mutual esteem, according to the document.



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Cardinal Notes

Contribution of Catholic Schools

Philadelphia — (NC) — The contribution of Catholic schools to the community, nation and the world "reaches proportions much greater than warranted by their numbers," John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia told 12,000 delegates to the Pennsylvania Catholic Educational Association convention here.

Speaking at the pontifical Mass (Oct. 3) in Convention Hall which opened the two-day convention, Cardinal Krol said:

"Our schools have extremely limited material resources, yet the products of our schools move apace and at times ahead of the public schools."

He said Philadelphia, with an almost 200-year-old tradition of Catholic education, is "a microcosm of much that has happened in Catholic education."

"We take pride in the fact that Pennsylvania has become the pioneer in recognizing the value of the public services of nonpublic schools."

Founder Explains Name Change for 'Rosary Crusade'

Oliver, Ill. — (RNS) — The worldwide movement of prayer known as the Family Rosary Crusade became the Campaign for Family Prayer to give it an ecumenical basis, according to its founder.

Father Patrick Peyton, writing in the current issue of Our Lady's Digest, published here, said he made the name change after consulting with numerous bishops and theologians. The general Irish priest whose voice has reminded people all over the world that "the family that prays together, stays together," explained the change in name was one of the first steps in the movement's renewal.

"Although the campaign has always reached out to peoples of all faiths, as well as to those of no faith at all," Father Peyton said, "its interconfessional dimension will now be brought to the forefront."

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Diocesan Slate

Rochester's particular enlighten the annual National Catholic Education next week at 1 Hotel.

Both the Eastman Kodak and the Xerox Corporation sent major developments today of teaching to the school superintendent to attend the conference Sunday and end Wednesday.

Dr. Louis K. Eilers, Kodak, will open the session. He will use of an ever-expanding array of teachers and of B. Zornow, vice president of Kodak will take a series of cartridge movies in which can be used to topics in a course of study run by small children.

Four speakers from the national office in New York sent a multifaceted disc changes occurring in the teacher, in the learning self, and in the adult response to such changes. Casom will give a dem the inductive process in Dr. Harold Haskip, the New Lincoln School

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