

'Religioneering' Way to Reach Youth

by Joan Zummo

How do you "turn on" today's youth? "Religioneering" is the answer for Our Lady of Mercy parish in Greece. "Religioneering" is presenting religion in an updated fashion, using modern ideas, methods, and techniques. It represents the third stage in an experimental program which aims to make the religious experience real and significant one to teenage youths.

This approach has its roots in a program established last year in the parish. During the '67-'68 school year a CCD course was launched which consisted of weekly one hour discussions which dealt with such current topics as hippies, drugs, Vietnam, the inner city, etc. The main shortcoming of this program was the inability of many of the teenagers to carry on meaningful discussions.

Directors felt that this apathy was not indicative of lack of interest, but rather was the result of two factors. First, lack of real involvement in the adult responsibilities of decision making and, second, value forming within the social framework of today's world. Because of a lack of experience and inability to communicate to issues, (or even a complete failure to respond to issues), a second phase was developed in the program.

Starting this past fall one three-hour meeting per month was scheduled for each high school class. At each meeting three topics were given one hour's consideration. The first 15-20 minutes of the hour was devoted to a presentation of the topic by the teacher or an outside authority. Then students were divided into pairs, given paper, crayons or colored pencils, and told to illustrate by drawing with current topics of the topic. Then followed a brief explanation by each pair.

Although the program directors feel that this program has been reasonably successful—it deals with current topics that interest the students, the approach has drawn some "drop outs" back into the CCD program, it forces a certain amount of participation—yet they feel that there is much to be done. Therefore, a third phase will be inaugurated in January.

This new phase, characterized by "religioneering," will build on the lessons learned from the last two phases. Classes will go back to a one-hour-a-week session for each class, and will still be composed of 12 to 30 students per class.

One major change is that the students will be required to take a stand on the issues under consideration. Treatment of topics will be such that evaluation and judgments will be required.

The course will continue to be essentially a course in applied Christianity—an attempt to help draw teenagers into this imperfect world and to help them wrap themselves in its problems and joys and to meet both problems and joys with responsible Christian attitudes and actions.

Since this particular approach to High School CCD is experimental it can take any one of many directions, perhaps eventually even involving the teenagers in actual projects related to their discussions.

Daily Mass League In Fund Campaign

In 1951, Harold J. Coleman, a prominent Rochester businessman and one of the founders of the Daily Mass League, gave it this motto: "The Golden Hour of the Day." Little did he know that the desire for a daily Mass would grow into an international organization with more than 42,000 members.

The league's members pay no dues and attend no meetings. The only qualification for membership is a desire to attend Mass daily. Daily Mass is held at Our Lady of Victory Church, 10 Pleasant St. at 11 a.m.; 11:40 a.m.; and 12:10 p.m.

Funds to maintain the league are obtained by donations solicited approximately every three years. Anyone wishing to become a member of the league or to contribute funds for it should write Harold J. Coleman, P.O. Box 1050, Rochester, N.Y. 14603.

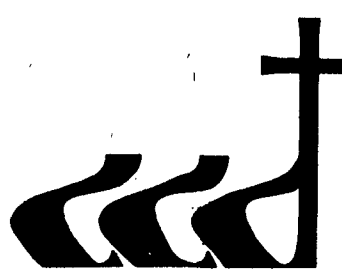
Kolping to Have Mass in German

The Catholic Kolping Society's Christmas Mass will be celebrated in German by Msgr. Charles V. Boyle, at 9 a.m. Dec. 28 in St. John the Evangelist Church, Humboldt St.

Father Winifred Kellner, a native of Augsburg, Germany, will deliver the homily. Members of the society will serve as lectors. German Christmas hymns will be sung. The congregation will be invited afterward to a breakfast of Christollen and kuchen.

Monignor Boyle, who majored in German literature at Fordham, is president of the society.

Confrontation



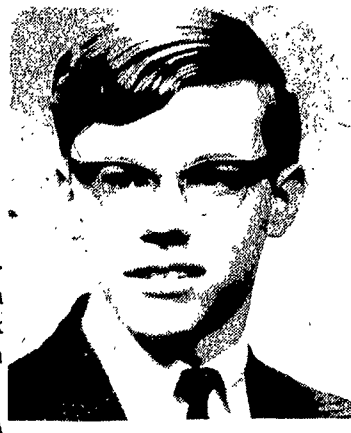
sions, such as working in the inner city.

But whatever direction it takes, one of the most important factors in its success

or failure will be its teachers. They must be not only creative, informed, well prepared and patient; they must also be fresh and blood examples of the faith they proclaim.

Teenagers do not want to be talked at, or to, or even with, very much. Their attitude, and that is just what Our Lady of Mercy parish is trying to do.

Aquinas Senior To Take Part in Capital Program



Paul Wendelglass

Paul Wendelglass, an Aquinas Institute senior, has been selected to represent New York at the State Youth Program Feb. 1-8 in Washington.

The program, supported by a foundation grant, permits student government members to observe the Senate in action and to talk with cabinet members and other officials. The 102 delegates this year, chosen by the chief school officers of their states, are expected to meet the new president and vice president.

Wendelglass, of 240 Brockley Road, is a member of St. James parish. He has the highest average in his class and is a National Merit finalist. He is a member of the Aquinas Student Council and the varsity debating team.

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New York — (RNS) — Se Catholic churches, eight Protestant churches, and the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues are sponsors of 17-story apartment house which is dedicated here. Tri-Faith House will provide apartments for 148 families, most of which were displaced by the public or private demolition of former homes in midtown New York.
More than 4,000 persons applied for the dwelling unit built with tax-abatement, low-interest through the Housing and Development Administration. The building dedicated in an ecumenical service.

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