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Catholic Schools: Church Embassies to By FATHER WILLIAM F. O'MALLEY, S.J.

The following is the second of two articles by Jesuit Father William O'Malley, of Mc-Quaid Jesuit High School.

greatest argument for closing

them lies in the "fact" that,

even while still in them, stu-

frequently and even stop going

OUT A Last week's article strongly \$49.95 contended that the Catholic high schools have a unique "educa-tional difference" over the publash & Gerry The 18 yr. Glass Lined lic secondary schools. He cited 458-5000 their "greater concern for selforganization, more chances for House of Water Heaters ersonal contact, more demand-

A Dopt. of Motoper & Brayer Co. SINCE 100 ing academic standards below the honors level and a unifying world-view." Today's article states that "there is a real re-

POR PERFECT ligious difference" achieved in the Catholic school training of DIAPER SERVICE high schooler. Many critics of the Catholic secondary school believe their

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dents go to the sacraments less Students receive Communion during Eastern Rite

Mass at McQuaid.

to Mass altogether. If they're not teaching re didn't hear even whispered Third, we can get dull conuntil we were in college.

formity from them, but it will igion well, why have them? only last until they get away to Reluctantly assuming, for the How many times when we college. If we want something ake of argument, that this as were in high school, for in more, if we want commitmen sertion is provable, I wonder if stance, did we hear open justi- and understanding and love, we we have really analyzed the fication of abortion by "other have to be patient and above causes enough to say we should wise, respectable" people? To-all adapt our methods and maclose the Catholic secondary day it's all over the papers and terials to the needs of this par-schools and rely solely on a Sunday supplements. When did ticular audience. weekly CCD class. I think this we hear masturbation not only

claim shows an appalling ignor judged allowable but recom-ance, at least of the mind of mended, and not by some just don't know what their kids the present day teenager and tough kid but by reputable the are thinking or, more imporologians? When did we hear tant, what has formed those whole nations of bishops stand- ideas. They don't listen to their its needs.

He is not disinterested in re- ing up against the Vicar of music of read their books. They ligion so much as disappointed Christ on Earth? in it. It is a real problem for

him, one in which ignorant beredoni and ignorant guilt are constantly pulling him in oppo-site directions. He finds Mass with confusion, how can we ask Many parents and priests do doesn't talk to him. He finds more of young people who have confusion in the prestigious just begun to cope with what

voices we all hear contradict. Ing one another in today's We keep thinking that all we they take them literally. When they don't mean they see no have to do is tell them the youngsters say, "I hate Mass," Catholic colleges before we truth, even inflict it on them if necessary, and everything will be all right. The Church will be all right. The Church will be and normal the way it that habit impossible. Used to be. But this isn't true. Why not?

He feels this way not because Why not?

problem in the easiest way

possible: by forgetting it.) He Second, there are many other only as long as you are within bit, swerve occasionally, but it raise up sons to him. feels that way because the in voices telling them just the op- hollering distance. formation explosion and the posite, and doing it far more communications glut have sat slickly and more convincingly

urated him with opinions we than we are.

between overbusy parents and tween the ages of 15 and 18. specifically American People of God in 1970 and 1980 and 1990. churchmen on the one side and In conclusion, I would like our future parents and church. to question the very premise At the moment when they with which this section began: are forming their first ideas, men on the other. Just as the Vatican keeps em- that today's teenager is less reassessing their past for the bassies in foreign countries who religious than he was "in our first time, making their first

ary schools as a kind of arbiter, American is most mallcable be, the American Church

understand the language, the day". How does one judge a human and religious commit-customs, the people, the un-suckers needs of "the ather" spoken needs of "the other side", and can mediate between. When I was a boy, I judged we can offer them the two differing sides that are myself by the number of sins well known only to the middle committed or foresworn and by

man, so the Church must have the items listed in the old an embassy to youth. They are, Apostleship of Prayer leaflets: Masses heard, rosaries said, noafter all, our future. venas attended. But I believe

No one feels he can deliver today's teenager must be judghimself of an opinion on inter-ed by his concern - about the national finance without studyproblem of God, about the pering it for years, and yet every sons through whom Christ No one would condemn a one thinks he can deliver opin-manifests himself, about the man on cocktail-party evidence. way the Spirit is moving ions on teenagers, without ever crookedly, according to our old always more interesting and having really talked with one.

We say, "I was once a teen comfortable criteria. ger." No. You were never this

kind of teenager - financially trary facts and opinions from we did to something without and life. That kind of positive a hundred million voluble picking it up and probing it, stuff never makes the news sources.

If for no other reason, we be that way. That is not the ondary school is all about. ought to keep our Catholic high question. He is that way, and schools open to give youngsters we are not going to reach him a chance to put religion in per-by treating him as if he were spective with all those other docile.myriad-details which claim to

A folk Mass speaks more be just as important. clearly to him than to his par-After all, John Lennon was ents, just as a Mass in English right. Youngsters know, care speaks more clearly to us than about, and listen to the Beatles one in Urdu.

more than Jesus Christ. Why? Because the Beatles talk their I don't think the Catholic language. There are not many secondary school is selling out who can make Christ talk their Christ by adapting the langulanguage, but I suspect that age and the media of the Chrisdon't even watch the cartoons many of them are teaching in tian message to its new and the Catholic secondary schools highly volatile audience any the kiddles glare at all rainy It would seem we ought to more than Peter was selling keep together the interpreters out when he yielded, painfully, and the people they want to to Paul on the issue of circumcision. The Greeks were sophisserve.

Although I am admittedly ticated, but Paul spoke their language. The American Indian don't necessarily hear what nancially naive), I would rathlisten to the kids talk, but they

very meaningful way for me to questions and the conflicting human pain more demanding do it. It's not just boring; it's answers we faced in college. By on Him than the laws of the

them will get them to go, but pretty well set. It will vary a Law and critical of it. Let us

has already begun to jell. If

he doesn't want to be bothered A generation is waiting in If for no other reason, we by thinking at eighteen, he will the wings. They can come on-ought to keep Catholic secondprobably be the same at eighty. stage cold, and perhaps disinterested in the style of play we I would suggest that the have handed on to them. But

At the moment when they

CENSUS NOTE Jacksonville Beach, Fis.

(NC)-An up-dated census in

the St. Augustine diocese has disclosed a Catholic population of 68,826. There fie 18,197

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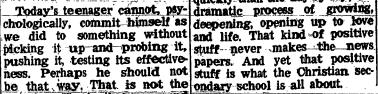
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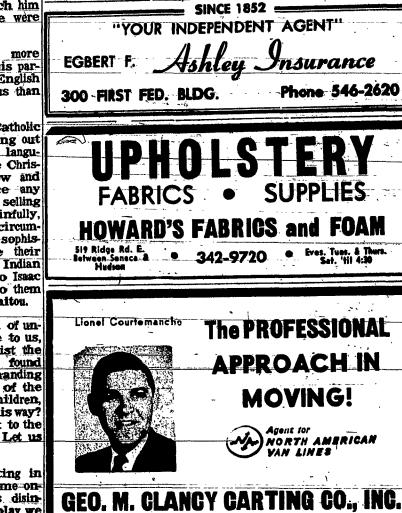
102

The Catholic secondary schoo is nowhere near perfect. But would suggest to those who believe such schools are unreasonably expensive; academically mediocre, and religiously inerfective, that they come and visit us for a couple of weeks.

A few negative comments are make the chatty circuit more quickly than the day-by-day, un-



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Crowned "Cou were: seated o winners, from



Pupils of Corpus School last week cl "**most courteo**us" amo classmates in a Campaign" initiated principal, Sister Mar SSJ.

The youngsters we to write the "reaso for their choices. Boy ballot winners were for each grade.

> The "Courtesy K Queen" and the 'men their courts" then we ed by a teacher "I courtesy experts"-S chaela, Sister Maur Mrs. Lawrence Unge

> Queen Josephine I an eighth grader, crown by receiving other accolades: and polite to everyon

CYO C

