

Pope Stresses Adult Education

Vatican City — (RNS) — Commenting on the World Catechetical Congress in progress here, Pope Paul made a strong plea for adult religious education, stressing that instruction must not stop in the early stages of Christian development and must be emphasized in the "adult stage."

At the same time, the pontiff warned that the reading of religious material or "private religiosity" are not always enough and that the true grasp of catechetics includes a "certain measure . . . of humble obedience" to those who teach the Word of God.

Speaking at his weekly general audience at St. Peter's Basilica, the Pope stressed the role catechetics plays in the personal and community life of Christians.

Vatican NEWS

The Pope said that catechetics can be considered a "witness of faith" and "since Christians have the duty to witness their own faith as missionaries . . . they have the fundamental duty to know it and to be instructed in its full aspects."

He said the ancient Christian duty to present faithfully the Christian message before pagans still holds true, especially in these times when "the diffusion of culture on the one hand and the confusion of philosoph-

ical and ideological systems on the other" requires that Christians give their religious profession a "more solid cultural foundation."

The Pope paid homage to all those who dedicate themselves to the teaching of catechetics, from bishops down to priests, religious and laity.

Convert-Clergy Ratio Reported

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Church is making converts faster than it can train priests to minister to them, according to an Italian missionary information service here.

Yet there are "vast areas of humanity" still untouched by Christianity and other large areas which once were Christian and now must be "re-Christianized," the agency reported.

The Missionary Information Service, sponsored by nine large Italian orders, stated in a report that the "re-Christianization" process is particularly true for Latin America where

rapid population increases have caused an "acute shortage of priests."

Statistically, the information service announced that there are 695 million Catholics throughout the world, more than any other single religion and more than Protestants and Orthodox Christians combined. The figure reportedly was based on the number of baptisms and represented an increase of 252.5 million in the last 20 years. The total number of priests—350,000—has remained virtually unchanged during the past two decades, the announcement said.

Court Reform Urged By Church Women

By LAURENCE E. KEEFE

A volunteer group of observers sponsored by Church Women United has released a report highly critical of city and county courts in Rochester.

The Task Force on Courts said in the report released Sept. 22 that it found black defendants received more severe sentences than whites for the same charges, that police appear to over-charge arrested persons to pave the way for later bargaining, and that public defenders engage in "back-room bargaining" without participation of the defendant.

Church Women United, according to Mrs. William T. Davis, is an ecumenical, interdenominational organization which coordinated the Task Force on Courts with the participation of 23 other community organizations.

The report is based on detailed notes made by more than

200 trained observers who watched 1,344 cases from arraignment to final disposition. The project began last March.

The Task Force said that its "report makes few recommendations" but "feels these studies indicate a pressing need for reform."

The report noted "an increase in the number of defendants released on their own recognizance," and said, "Bails also seem lower," but remarked, "We find the whole system of bail inherently unfair."

The report said the Task Force on Courts did not find "overt discrimination in the conduct of the court," but found a "disturbing pattern" of "more severe sentencing of blacks."

"Our findings indicate that, on the average," said the report, "judges give more severe sentences to black defendants than to white defendants."

Campus Ministry Initiated At Community College

The campus ministry for Canandaigua's Community college was initiated at an open house for all Catholic students of the college at St. Mary's parish, Sunday, Sept. 26.

Father Kevin Murphy, the part-time chaplain of the community college of the Finger Lakes, explained that the open house was an ecumenical venture in that all the churches of Canandaigua cooperated in organizing and holding similar

events. The clergy of the community feel that a joint effort will be most beneficial in serving the 800 students enrolled at the college.

It is hoped that as the year progresses, students will be elected to a campus Newman board to assist in organizing and planning for the Newman work.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miller are the faculty advisors to the newly formed ministry.

Cancer Crusade Tops Goal

American Cancer Society, Monroe County Unit, reports a final 1971 Crusade total of \$228,042, surpassing this year's goal of \$222,500 and reaching 102% of quota. The figure exceeds 1970 contributions by \$21,042.

Speaking on behalf of his 1971 Crusade Committee, Eugene T. Clifford, general chairman, said "We are encouraged and motivated by this continuing response of the public to surge ahead in the fight against cancer. Again, we in Monroe County have lived up to the responsibility of providing our share of dollars toward this effort, and hopefully to hasten the day when research will produce answers to overcome this disease."

Crusade leaders included Carl W. Foss, vice chairman; Mrs. Glen C. Durkin, county residential; Mrs. Leo J. Kesselring, special gifts; John C. Holme Jr., independent business; Theodore

H. Solomon, legacy; John Sayre, special events; and George Anthony, memorials.

Secretaries Chapter Earns Award

The Rochester chapter of the National Secretaries Association (International) has earned its first Chapter Professional Development Award.

The award, to be received at their regular open dinner meeting on Oct. 6, signifies professionalism achieved through educational programs which bring knowledge, attitudes, and performance to higher levels of member participation.

NEWS DEADLINE

A reminder that Courier-Journal news deadline is noon Thursday for the following Wednesday's newspaper.

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