

**Father John McDonald**

**'Education is All Just Human Relations'**

By CHARLES RANDISI

"I would like to see the word 'education' come alive."

"Let's face it, education is all just human relations."

"If we believe that all people are created in the image of God, then there is the implication that we must have faith in people."

These words come from Father John McDonald, S.J., the new rector-president of McQuaid Jesuit High School.

He was named to the position on June 21, and replaces Father Albert Bartlett, S.J., who has gone on to Canisius College as a professor of English.

Father McDonald is not new to McQuaid. For the past three years he was superior of the Jesuit community, and he taught senior theology at McQuaid. Before 1969, he was headmaster at Xavier High School in Manhattan for seven years.

In his new post, Father McDonald sees himself as having "responsibility for the entire school." He is primarily a coordinator, and his duties cover the whole range of McQuaid life.

"The faculty has done some complete, effective, planning," he said. "The school is becoming, aside from and beyond academic excellence, a place where religious and moral questions are very important."

He emphasized the word "community" when speaking of McQuaid. "If we believe that all people are created in the image of God, then there is the implica-

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tion that we must have faith in people. And it this sharing of faith that gives us a community. In this sense, McQuaid could be called a microcosm of the Church."

Father McDonald believes that education is much more than textbooks and classes. "The key to it is interrelationships between people. Let's face it, education is all just human relations. That is why we must make this act of faith in one another."

McQuaid itself is still a college preparatory school. "Any boy who graduates from McQuaid is prepared for college," Father McDonald said. "But the choice of whether or not he goes to college is, of course, up to him."

He also talked of the independence of McQuaid. "We are a private school," he said. "We are not public, and we are not diocesan. I see this as a great advantage."

"It may be a costly advantage, but I think it's worth it," he continued. There is a lot more freedom for innovations."

One of the innovations is a program whereby a student moves at his own pace. "There



FATHER McDONALD

are three steps to this," Father McDonald said, "basic, develop-boy moves according to what is best for him."

He also said that one of the problems in modern education in the "neglect of reflection and contemplation. It's really related to the work ethic," he said. "There is the belief that if the boys aren't busy, then there is something wrong. I believe that an important part of education

is the use of leisure. At McQuaid, we are already going in that direction."

Development not only of the intellect and body but also of the spirit is very true to Jesuit thought, he explained. "We must go beyond academic excellence," he said again. "But that doesn't mean that McQuaid is an easy school by any means. Academics is implied in the word 'beyond'."

Father McDonald said that McQuaid might be a good example for the diocesan Year of

Renewal. "When we talk about the spirit of renewal, isn't that the same thing as renewal of the spirit?"

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**On the Line**

Folk hero Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker was asked recently what he would do to stop the skyjacks.

"Shoot 'em," the leading American ace of World War I said.

Not many airlines want to take such drastic action, including the one Capt. Eddie built — Eastern. Airlines prefer to give the jacks what they want, and hope for the best: safety of innocent passengers, recovery of the loot, and apprehension of the criminals. This quick submission to piracy has unquestionably emboldened more and more oddballs to take that short cut to temporary riches and the notoriety for which they psychopathically hunger. The news media has not done a good job in follow-ups. We have not given as much space and time to the punishment meted out to the coralled pirate as we gave to his dastardly (and vaguely romantic) deed.

Secor D. Browne, chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board, put it all in focus in a talk before the Aero Club of New England:

"Up to just recently hijackers have been given a sort of Robin Hood image in some newspapers and sometimes on television. The gangsters and lunatics have changed all of that. The events of the past year or so, particularly the last few months, read like a catalog of terror. What started out as a free ride to Cuba has become a nightmare of bombs, bomb threats, extortion, and the outright massacre at Lod Airport. The bell truly tolls for all of us, and we must act effectively soon to end this nightmare, before it gets any worse."

Magnifying glasses and knives have revealed piles of guns and knives that might have resulted

in many more skyjackings, but some air terminals and carriers would let a Viet Cong firing squad get on. In spite of all this, Browne argued:

"To me, it is economic nonsense to suggest that the carriers or the airport operators are capable of policing the system. The burden should not, and cannot properly be placed on the airlines, airport operators or local authorities. None of them has the ability, the resources or the legal authority to handle it. There are actions the carriers and airport operators can take, but they cannot have total responsibility. . . . The airline ticket seller can't just turn around and be a policeman, too. He can't smile and sell a ticket, and then frisk the passenger for artillery. It's contrary to his training and promotional responsibilities."

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