

Father Brent Gives View Of Future Catholic Schools

Father Daniel Brent, diocesan superintendent of schools, spoke last Saturday to a group of Sisters, the Daughters of Charity of the Emmitsburg Province, on Catholic Schools: A View of the Future.

The Sisters staff Catholic schools in the dioceses of Richmond, Atlanta, Wheeling, Baltimore, Washington and Charlotte.

In his talk, Father Brent posed two questions: Are Catholic schools worth it? And where are they leading?

Using the U.S. Bishop's statements in *To Teach As Jesus*

Did and other positions by educators, Father Brent answered the first question affirmatively then proceeded to deal with the second.

"The Catholic school — elementary and secondary — will survive. There is no question in my mind about that. I could not predict any dramatic reversal in enrollment patterns; the public schools are also projecting decreasing enrollments."

Father Brent also sees school sponsorship moving away from its parochial base.

"This is already a clear trend in the emergence of regional school

boards and multiple parish cooperative efforts. I do not see them becoming wholly separated from the parishes whose people they serve. In our own experience, their birth has been easiest when the pastors assist in the role of midwife and their viability has been enhanced by the continuing interest and support of the parish structures."

Other developments Father Brent foresees are more parent-child-school collaboration in education, greater school-community openness, more involvement in the field of early childhood education, and dramatic curriculum changes.

Among such changes he sees more emphasis on "communications" skills other than reading and writing, skills like speaking and listening and learning to make critical judgments about information. The new curriculum will highlight topics like economics and politics and the third and fourth worlds and (especially in Catholic schools) topics that touch justice and peace.

Kearney Students Win Commendation

Twenty Bishop Kearney High School seniors have been awarded letters of commendation by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Their test scores placed them in the top seven per cent of all who entered the nationwide competition for the 1974 graduating class.

Brother William M. Stoldt, principal, presented certificates of achievement to Margaret Boychuk, Timothy Dowling, Laurie Fedigan, Margaret Gorski, Robert Hahn, Kevin Hasson, Rosemary Holz, Susan Kunz, Kathleen Mahoney, Kevin Moran.

Also, John Nuryk, Paul Ozminkowski, Kathleen Pedulla, Anthony Piazza, Mary Quinn, Mary Sue Schaeffer, Joseph Speranza, Marie Speranza, Joseph Viola and Joseph Ziegler.

Political Advertisement

Life, Liberty and Law

Nancy Murphy

The seas

Spreading over a full 70 per cent of the earth, the massive salted waters have always enticed man — the constant motion of their power, the sudden and violent storms, and the protein rich foods beneath their ice green surfaces. Something within man's restless nature responds to the sea, and compels him to reach out for the knowledge to direct the energies, to control the storms and harvest the foods in order that he may better serve the missions who live here on this planet, this exciting blue marble suspended in a dark universe.

Marine life today is one of our major renewable natural resources, and it continues to increase at a global production rate which exceeds the growth rate of our human population. It has been reported that acre for acre the oceans are as productive as the land. Yet we take only one per cent of our food from the water. The world fish yield is between 50 and 60 million tons yearly, shamefully below the 200 million ton potential estimated by Dr. S.J. Holt, marine science and fishery coordinator with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. Dr. Holt suggests in a report, *The Food Resources of the Ocean*, that mankind should — indeed must — form a well-managed global fishery in order to realize the amazing potential of the seas without polluting or overfishing them.

His idea is not new, as he readily points out. Aristotle discussed the cultivation of oysters in the fourth century before Christ, and the Roman naturalist Pliny wrote of it in the early Christian centuries; carp and milkfish were farmed in European ponds during medieval times. Man has known for centuries that farming the oceans — breeding the fish and plant life rather than merely extracting fish — is an effective way to feed humanity. And when we consider that three quarters of us are starving or suffering from malnutrition, while many of the remaining quarter are clamoring for the systematic destruction of the 'unwanted' costly eaters, we must realize that the time has come to act — we have neglected and polluted the oceans long enough.

In recent years high protein fish concentrate has become a principle additive for feed grains, and many nations have instigated long-range fishing fleets in order to harvest the waters thousands of miles from their home shores. In the Scandinavian countries for instance the ASTRA Group, a pharmaceutical enterprise, discovered a laboratory method for producing a completely fat-free protein from fish meal, then invested \$12 million to find the best way to extract the odorless

fish protein, which has both good shipping and good storage qualities. (In contrast the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company estimated its investment in prostaglandin research may exceed 30 million dollars.) The ASTRA Group sought new ways to incorporate the fish concentrate into human food as a factor in the battle against malnutrition and starvation. Human consumption tests were begun in the 60's with very successful results. According to a Farm and Agriculture Organization report, "the protein from herring has fulfilled by a wide margin the standards set by the Food and Drug Administration."

The USSR is another nation which has emerged as a fishing power of global dimensions. Her large factory ships and freezer-trawlers ply the earth's oceans for a variety of fish products. Her massive processing ship the Polar Star with its mini-fleet of trawlers has helped to boost Russia to her new position as the third largest fishing nation in the world.

The United States meanwhile, committed to an anti-life philosophy so repugnant to many of her own citizens, has neglected even the potential 20 million-ton yield from waters surrounding her rich land masses. She harvests less than two million tons yearly. I have been unable to find any evidence that America has a single factory ship. I have read of no long-range fishing fleet; there is nothing to indicate that she has a marine processing vessel. She is there for incapable of offering this vital high-protein resource even to those within her own boundaries who are malnourished, not to mention the starving masses across the seas.

I suggest to my country that she take the lead, while there still is an opportunity to do so, not in prostaglandin research to destroy existing human life, not in abusive family planning programs, but in marine farming, in researching the elusive truths of the oceans and rivers and lakes and ponds in search of new ways to reap and replenish the incredible food stuffs available therein. I suggest that it would cost America no more to serve humanity than she is now spending to destroy it through HEW and AID family planning programs, and through university level medical research into newer faster abortifacients, and fetal experimentation programs.

I suggest that we look to the seas. The choice is literally before us now. We can serve the merchants of death or we can serve human life. The former is quick, convenient and cheap; the latter more disciplined and demanding. The choice is ours.

But the judgment is the Lord's.

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