

Today's Students:

Are They the 'Mercenary Generation'?

Washington, D.C. — A survey of attitudes of incoming college freshmen reveals a return to the 1950s in some respects, although not in areas of personal freedoms, according to a researcher at the Catholic University of America.

Dean R. Hoge, professor of sociology at the university and a staff member of the Boys Town Center for the study of Youth Development at Catholic University, said his research reveals that the Church is seen by college youth as a resource rather than as an authority in their lives — a conclusion he says both churches and colleges should consider in their ministries to youth.

"Freshmen are coming into college more and more with

their attitudes already set," said Hoge. "There is today less impact of college on college students than in the past, especially as far as values are concerned."

Hoge's analysis of the research included his own studies and the annual American Council on Education freshman survey in about 300 colleges and universities. The research shows that in attitudes and values, American college freshmen are a part of today's "me" generation, also called the "mercenary" generation. Hoge said their attitudes are "practical and privatistic."

"This trend probably will continue," he said, adding that he found the data somewhat "depressing. I see no reason to expect a change. Probably we

will see more of the same."

Hoge's own surveys include statistics dating back to 1948 at Williams College and 1952 at Dartmouth and the University of Michigan.

Breaking his subjects into religious groups, Hoge said the survey reveals "a greater change among Catholic students, and the community alongside them, than in any other religious group." The Catholic community has been the fastest-changing religious group in the nation in the last decade or two, he explained.

"The demand for personal freedoms has consistently gone up since the 1950s," he added. "The implication for the Catholic Church is that there is a collision course ahead. It will be harder and harder for young people to find authentic Catholic faith while at the same time accepting the Church's moral teachings, especially in the whole area of sexuality. In past religious history, a situation like this tended to produce some division or some splitting into different religious life styles."

"The sexual revolution," he added, "has been important for understanding today's problems of church authority. I'm quite convinced that it has not played itself out. In Europe it has advanced farther than here."

Hoge has been presenting the results of his work to university and area campus ministers and leaders. Recently, he spoke to an ecumenical group of campus



ministers in the Washington, D.C. area.

Brother Joseph Izzo, campus minister at the Catholic University of America, said he believes Hoge's research to be "very worthwhile and productive." Knowing what religious attitudes students are "operating from helps ministers to help young adults

grow in the understanding of their faith."

Brother Izzo, who has worked with young adults for nine years, said he has witnessed a move toward more conservative attitudes in politics, but a greater liberalism in sexuality, which have made roles of the campus ministers more difficult.

The problem young adults have, Hoge added, of pitting personal freedoms vs. the church, is often solved psychologically: being a Christian but not going to Church. The dropouts from churches he interviewed all said that they are still Christians devoted to God's will, but they see no reason why they have to go to church.

Alumna Re-elected

Eileen Thaney Morton-Cubitt, class of '50, has been re-elected representative to the Nazareth College Board of Trustees. As trustee, Eileen will serve on both the Alumni Association Executive Board and the Board of Trustees and will act as liaison between the two groups.



EILEEN MORTON-CUBITT
well as the Nazareth College Alumni Board.

Eileen, who has been a professor of secretarial services at Monroe Community College for the past 18 years, presides over SUNY Secretarial Educators, a statewide organization, and chairs her local Seton group. She is a member of the Monroe County Business Teachers' Association and the National Business Education Association, as

Have Time on Your Hands?

The American Red Cross is looking for volunteers interested in being trained to assist Red Cross personnel at bloodmobile sites and at the Blood Center.

be held 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 6, and 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, May 7 at the Red Cross Blood Center, 50 Prince St. Free parking is available.

tation to the Red Cross and its blood program as well as practice in donor registration, temperature-taking, labelling of materials, serving refreshments and donor observation.

Blood unit volunteers are requested to work a minimum of one day per week, which can be scheduled to their convenience. To register for the training class, call Red Cross Community Volunteer Services, 275-9800, before May 1.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Random Queries

Many people have questions about the Church, but don't voice them to get an answer. Recently we had a retreat for the Rochester Catholic Daughters of America. The retreat took place at the beautiful Stella Maris Retreat House on Skaneateles Lake, run by the Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse, the same order which came to the aid of Father Damien, the leper priest in Molokai. I gave each retreatant a slip which read: "This I have often wondered about." The person could write a question anonymously, and start the ball rolling. Here are some questions:

A friend will not go to Communion unless she goes to confession first. What can be done to convince her that it's okay to go without confession first?

Probably nothing. But why not let her do it that way? If she's contented, why try to change her? Perhaps her exaggeration could remind others — who are exaggerated in the other direction by not going to confession at all, or who flock to those dubious communal Penance services — that personal confession is a wonderful sacrament to be used?

Why hasn't the bishop insisted that the clergy and nuns adhere to the dress code? Who knows who is and who isn't a nun?

If you were a bishop would you get your head tangled up in a buzz saw? I have often thought what a beautiful sight it would be if some Sunday every Sister would blossom forth in the holy habit, and would sit together in the parish church or community, with her Sisters in religion. But if I were a bishop, I would do what is done now: keep out of it. If the Sisters shrug off the Holy Father, they would hardly regard their bishop. It takes great courage for a Sister today to wear the habit. Many would like to, but cannot stand the hostility toward the habit by the ascendancy.

Priests generally wear clerical garb. I have often wondered why those who don't, seem to dress either like teenagers in dungarees and such, or in mismatched clothes which usually are gaudy. However, when Father Charles Curran was here for his lecture at Nazareth, he was neither gaudy nor bizzare, but he was neatly dressed in secular clothes. Incidentally, for the record, I was at the lecture and he didn't say anything which we were not taught at

St. Bernard's Seminary 50 years ago. He avoided controversial subjects.

Is Governor Carey's marriage recognized by the Church?

I don't know. But his marriage is the kind of thing which sells gossip-drooling magazines like the National Enquirer to millions of prurient-minded people. I am always ashamed of Catholics who have a hatchet out for possible violators of the law. It is good to remember that hatchets often boomerang back to their throwers. It is hard to have privacy as a public figure, but it seems to me if a man whose marital fidelity was never questioned, who was good to his wife, and brought up his children in the Faith, should expect a bit of privacy, even if he is a public figure.

The Latin church congregation on Winton Road has Sunday Mass in the Tridentine rite. Is it acceptable as a Mass of obligation for Catholics to attend?

No. It does not fulfill the Sunday obligation for Catholics who are in union with the Pope and Bishop Clark. These people are mostly good people who seem emotionally unable to accept changes in the Church, and have joined the LeFebvre groups. I have some sympathy for people who have psychological hang-ups. Usually these people love the Church, but have that "more Catholic than the Catholic Church" syndrome.

Seminar to Focus on Arthritis

In keeping with the United Nation's designation of 1981 as "The Year of the Disabled Person," a conference on "The Arthritic Patient with Total Joint Replacement" will be held for Genesee Valley Region nurses on Thursday, May 7 at the Sheraton Motor Inn in Canandaigua.

The all-day event is sponsored by the Genesee Region Citizens League for Nursing and the Orthopedic Nurses Committee (GRCLN).

Six contact hours of

Training includes orien-

continuing education credit will be granted. The fee for GRCLN members is \$20; for non-members, \$25. Further information may be obtained at the GRCLN office, (716) 454-7170.

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FOR INFORMATION: 244-5329

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