

Armchair College Fair

Catholic colleges make list of 100 best buys

NEW YORK (CNS) — Twelve Catholic colleges are among the nation's top 100 in terms of value for the money, according to the annual list published by *Money* magazine.

The sixth annual school ranking, published in September in a special edition of the New York-based magazine, was a survey of 1,049 four-year colleges and universities.

Among the Catholic schools, Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y., got the highest ranking at 37th.

Several factors were involved in determining *Money* magazine's school rankings, such as students' entrance exam scores and high school grade point averages, faculty and library resources, budgets for instruction and services, graduation rates, default ratio on student loans and the number of graduates who earn doctorates.

Other Catholic colleges on the national list included St. Bonaventure University in Olean (41st); Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., which had the highest Catholic ranking last year at 45th but was 51st this year; Le Moyne College in Syracuse (53rd); St. John's University

in New York (65th); Assumption College in Worcester, Mass. (67th); Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia (73rd); St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa. (83rd); Thomas More College in Covington, Ky. (91st); Loyola University in New Orleans (92nd); Carroll College in Helena, Mont. (95th); and Stonehill College in North Easton, Mass. (98th).

Money magazine also divided the nation into six regions, choosing the top 10 best values in the Southwest and Mountain states, the top 15 in the West and the top 25 in the Midwest, Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions.

The 17 Catholic schools winning regional honors were:

— West: Santa Clara University in California (13th).

— Midwest: Creighton (10th) and Illinois Benedictine College in Lisle, Ill. (22nd).

— Southwest and Mountain: Loyola (8th) and Carroll (9th).

— Northeast: Siena (4th); St. Bonaventure (6th); Le Moyne (11th); St. John's (13th); Assumption (14th); Stonehill (19th); Fordham University in New York (22nd) and Providence College in Rhode Island (23rd).



— Mid-Atlantic: Chestnut Hill (15th); St. Vincent (18th) and Duquesne University in Pittsburgh (21st).

— Southeast: Thomas More College in Covington, Ky. (19th).

For the first time this year, *Money* magazine also ranked the top 25 academic religious schools, defining them as those "that place a premium on religion in their curriculum or campus life." Fourteen of the 25 were Catholic institutions.

The top academic religious schools included Villanova University in Pennsylvania (3rd); St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind. (4th); University of Scranton in Pennsylvania (5th); Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, Calif. (7th); St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vt. (8th); Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles (9th); Rosemont College in Pennsylvania (12th); and John Carroll University in Cleveland (13th).

Also included were Universi-

ty of Dayton in Ohio (14th); King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. (15th); St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis. (16th); Anna Maria College in Paxton, Mass. (18th); St. Louis University in Missouri (23rd); and Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md. (24th).

Money magazine also listed the schools that ranked 101st to 150th as best values. Because they ranked "within hundredths of a percentage point of each other," they were listed in alphabetical rather than chronological order.

The 12 Catholic colleges in that grouping were: Barat College, Lake Forest, Ill.; Canisius College, Buffalo; College of Mount St. Vincent, Bronx; College of St. Rose, Albany; Duquesne; Fordham; Illinois Benedictine; Loyola College in Baltimore; Marquette University in Milwaukee; Providence; Santa Clara; and Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Report: Faith lives at colleges

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Many Catholic students on secular college campuses are religiously active, prayerful and generous but ignorant of their faith, according to a report published late last year.

"They live with a critical intellectual gap regarding their Catholicism," said Harvard-Radcliffe Catholic chaplain, Father J. Bryan Hehir.

"Very bright young Catholics come to our campus woefully ignorant of their faith but eager to learn," said University of Michigan Catholic chaplain, Father William J. Stevenson.

The 67-page report was issued last August by Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities, also known as FADICA.

Titled "Faith on Campus: Catholic Ministry at Non-Church-Related Universities," it is a report of the proceedings of a symposium that FADICA convened last January for a group of leading philanthropists and campus ministry experts.

Catholic students on college campuses "are genuinely prayerful and pious in the good sense of the term. They are generous," said Father Hehir, the symposium's keynote speaker.

He explained what he meant by Catholic students suffering an intellectual gap about their faith. "They are usually not even aware that there is such a thing as a structured vision of life that flows from faith."

The notion that there is a whole body of ideas, structured arguments, product of a vision and a church that is engaged in every one of these questions — that is often entirely absent from students that I meet."

Paulist Father Michael J. Hunt, Catholic chaplain since 1984 at Tufts University in Medford, Mass., said that when students come to him with moral dilemmas, often a common underlying thread is relativism.

"In a culture that teaches that one opinion is as good as another when it comes to morality, young people today are torn between an intuitive sense for objective values and a cultural message that 'there is no fixed reality in the first place on which moral teaching can be grounded,'" he said.

EDITORS' NOTE: "Faith on Campus" is available for \$7.50 a copy from FADICA, 1350 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Suite 303, Washington, D.C. 20036-1701.

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