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TEACHING RELIGION

Theme of NCCLA State Convention

GOLDSBORO.—The North Carolina Catholic Laymen's Association which will hold its Seventh Annual State Convention here, May 2, 3, will spotlight Teaching Religion in the uncertain modern times. Miss Doris Startt, Frank J. Farfour, and John D. Middleton all of Goldsboro, are in charge of the general arrangements. Both Laymen Units of here, Saint Mary's and Sacred Heart, will be hosts to the visiting priests, sisters and laymen who will attend from all sections of North Carolina.

Many Events Scheduled

The General program has two general sessions and six special sessions on Saturday, May 2, and the convention will hear an address on "The Vocation to be a Layman." The Committee for Christian Home and Family will hold its annual diocesan meeting on Saturday morning at one of the special sessions. The NORTH CAROLINA CATHOLIC MOTHER of 1953 will also be presented to the Layman's Rally on Saturday evening, May 2, in the Goldsboro High School Auditorium. The Legion of Mary Organization will have delegates attend a special meeting Saturday morning.

Large Turnout Expected

A large turnout of Catholic Laymen from all parts of North Carolina is expected to arrive here for the two day period of speeches and sessions. A Pontifical Low Mass will be offered by The Most Reverend James J. Navagh, D. D., Auxiliary Bishop on Saturday morning, May 2, to open the Convention. Sessions will be held throughout Saturday culminating in the mammoth Laymen's Rally for that evening.

Election of Officers

Sunday afternoon at the Annual Business session of the Catholic Laymen, four new Board of Directors will be chosen to replace the outgoing State Board Members: Mrs. Mary J. Bird of Wilson, retiring President; Charles A. Field, of Raleigh retiring State Secretary. (See RELIGION, Page 8)

Distinguished Alumni Figure in Celebration at Belmont Abbey Site

BELMONT. — Belmont Abbey College, which recently enlarged its educational facilities to the status of a four-year complete course, will begin a three-day celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the institution. The Right Reverend Vincent G. Taylor, O. S. B., president of the college, is host and will deliver the closing address on Saturday, May 2.

Participants in the celebration include prominent alumni of the college. Among the clergy are the Right Reverend Thomas E. O'Connell of Richmond, class of 1922, co-founder of the Catholic Committee of the South; the Most Reverend Vincent S. Waters, D. D., class of 1925; the Most Reverend Joseph L. Federal, D. D., class of 1926; the Right Reverend Arthur R. Freeman, P. A., V. G., class of 1915, and Charles B. Norris, M. D., '36; Foster E. Goodrich, '29; and Leo F. Henebry, 1911, who is also chairman of the president's board of advisors.

Distinguished visitors of the clergy are the Most Reverend Amleto G. Cicognani, D. D., Apostolate Delegate to the United States; the Most Reverend Frances P. Keough, Archbishop of Baltimore; the Most Reverend John M. McNamara, D. D., Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, D. C., and the Right Reverend (See ALUMNI, Page 4)

TO GIVE SERMON



Most Rev. C. J. Weldon, D.D.
Bishop of Springfield, Mass.

Bishop Christopher J. Weldon, noted advocate of Catholic laymen's activities, will deliver the sermon for the occasion of the NCCLA convention Mass at Goldsboro on May 3.

ORATORICAL FINALS

The state finals of the Diocesan Oratorical Contest will be held this Sunday, April 19, at 2:00 p. m. in the Cathedral Auditorium, Raleigh, with the Most Reverend Bishop presiding. Mrs. Mary Bird, NCCLA State President will be mistress of ceremonies. All are cordially invited to attend this noted contest.

Mrs. Mary Groce of Asheville New State CDA Officer, Charlotte Court Continues Seminary Student Aid

WILMINGTON. — Mrs. Mary Groce, a member of Court Asheville, was designated territorial deputy during the business meeting of the Catholic Daughters of America during their 18th annual state conference held here last week. Announcement was made of the appointment by Mrs. Ella K. Hofmann of Raleigh, whose four-year term of office expired. Continued interest in the education of young men for the priesthood was evidenced by Court Charlotte, who presented a check for \$600.00 again this year to His Excellency, Bishop Waters, for the seminary fund.

Asks Zealous Response

"As members of the Catholic Daughters of America you have already initiated the 'Share the Faith' program which is directed toward an adult appeal. You are fulfilling a need of lively zeal for the preservation and spread of Christ's Holy Church," the Right Reverend Arthur R. Freeman of Greensboro said in his sermon during the Solemn Mass offered in St. Mary's Church by the Very Reverend Herbert A. Harkins, state chaplain.

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Soldier Lauds Chaplain Who Never Loses a Race Getting to the Wounded

WITH THE 40TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN KOREA. — Father (Capt.) Emil Joseph F. Kapusta, chaplain to the 40th Infantry Division's 223rd Regiment in Korea, is known as the man who never lost a race to bring the Sacraments to a wounded or dying soldier.

The priest chaplain is well-known to laymen and clergy of North Carolina as he was stationed at Fort Bragg and took Knights of Columbus degrees here.

The tall ascetic-looking padre from Yonkers, N. Y., also has the distinction of having in one week alone written over 500 letters to the wives and parents of Catholic men arrived in the 223rd. His purpose: to assure the folks back home that he would keep watch over the spiritual welfare of their loved ones.

Aiding the soldier spiritually and keeping mothers and wives at home reassured, Father Kapusta keeps tirelessly occupied from morning till late at night.

Letters from Families

Father Kapusta's incoming mail averages 50 letters a week. Some of them contain worried questions from the families of men who have been notified by the Army that their son or husband has been wounded in action.

Accordingly, the Chaplain inaugurated a system whereby, if possible, a slightly-wounded man writes a letter home direct from the aid-station, saying that the wound was light, and there is no need for concern. The mere fact that the soldier was able to write at the time of the wound is enough to assure most families.

His stern attitude toward the men "on the hill," along with a profound sincerity of devotion to them, is indicative of Father Kapusta's feeling that a chaplain must be a composite of priest and psychologist.

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'RAMP' Chaplain



Lt. Col. Chaplain William F. Nern, (above) of Milwaukee, Eighth Army chaplain, has been assigned to duty at the camp prepared near Munsan, Korea, to receive the sick and wounded prisoners to be released by the communists. Some of the prisoners have not seen a priest for two and a half years. He will be among the chaplains assigned to RAMP, (Recovery of Allied Military Personnel). (NC Photos)

KC State Deputy Urges Knights Attend NCCLA Convention Sessions

GOLDSBORO. — In an interview with the officials of the Seventh Annual State Convention of the North Carolina Catholic Laymen's Association scheduled for here, May 2, 3, L. Paul Nobert urged the Knights of Columbus throughout North Carolina to attend this important meeting. "Goldsboro offers the great opportunity," Nobert stated "of having the Knights of Columbus meet with the other organizations engaged in the work of Catholic Action in the Diocese." "The NCCLA," the leader of Columbianism declared "is endeavoring to unite all the Catholic activities of Men and Women and for this reason alone, all men should try to have representation at the many sessions planned."

Theme: Teaching Religion

The Convention with the theme "Teaching Religion" — the work of a Team, priests, sisters and laymen — is important for the work of Columbianism here at home, Nobert said. Attendance motives was given by the State Deputy because "Any member of the Knights of Columbus is primarily a member of the Catholic Laity who are called upon to work on the team assisting the Most Reverend Bishop in the growth of the Church in North Carolina." Nobert planned to appeal to all Councils to send delegates to the Convention.

Special Knights Session

The convention this year will bring the various Catholic organizations into the limelight and a special session is slated for the Knights on Saturday morning, May 2, at 10:45 a. m. in the Goldsboro High School. State Deputy Nobert will address the General Session of Saturday morning, May 2 at 10:00 a. m. on the topic "Teaching Religion in the World."

Nobert, State Deputy for the North Carolina Council for the past two years is a former Board of Director of the North Carolina Catholic Laymen's Association.

Serious Shortages of Teachers Problem for The Catholic Education

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. — Catholic schools in the U. S. face serious shortages and these shortages will increase during the next ten years.

That was learned here by 9,000 leading Catholic educators at the 50th annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association. The educators have returned to schools and colleges throughout the nation with renewed determination to do something about it.

This is the situation: Catholic schools today find themselves with more pupils than ever before and more seeking enrollment — but with no immediate means for handling them.

Top concern of Catholic elementary and secondary schools is a serious teacher shortage. At present these schools have 112,000 religious and lay teachers. In the next ten years, it is estimated an increase of 35 per cent more teachers will be needed.

This means almost 40,000 additional teachers — not including those needed to replace teachers who retire.

Where to Find Teachers?

The problem: Where will these teachers be found? Religious communities reported that for September, 1952, they could only supply 38 per cent of the estimated 5,409 Sisters needed for expansion, replacement and vacancies last year. In the past five years, 4,227 requests for Sisters to open new schools have been refused by communities which have no teachers to give.

The suggested solutions: More lay teachers in elementary and secondary schools plus increased vocations for teaching communities. The teacher shortage, the educators decided, is the Number One problem.

With birth rate increases and with more parents wanting to send their children to Catholic schools, the Catholic schools face an estimated increase of about one million pupils within the next eight years.

About 125,000 additional pupils were absorbed into the Catholic elementary and secondary school system this year. Next year another 150,000 new pupils will seek entrance; and it is estimated that the number of new pupils will be 250,000 by the following year.

This creates a giant problem of school construction. It is estimated that an additional 46,000 classrooms will be needed during the next ten years to meet the increased enrollments on the elementary and secondary levels.

Unbelievably Generous

U. S. Catholics — who support their schools by voluntary contributions in addition to paying for tax-supported public schools — have been "unbelievably generous," the educators agreed. But the tremendous growth needed to meet enrollment increases and to provide school buildings, must be financed. Where will the money come from is another big problem.

School Problems

And the educators face other difficulties. They want Catholic teaching to continue to improve as the schools expand. The new goal in teacher-training is at least a four-year college education for lay or religious teachers in elementary schools. Faced with higher professional standards and a teacher shortage which calls for more teachers in the schools here and (See SHORTAGES, Page 4)