

Jesuit Asserts Freedom as Keynote of Church Renewal

Collegeville, Minn. — (NC) — Rediscovery of the meaning of freedom will mark the "age of renewal" now being entered by the Church, Father John Courtney Murray, S.J., said here.

Father Murray, professor at Woodstock (Md.) College, made his prediction at the 108th annual commencement of St. John's University.

Pax Christi Awards, conferred annually by the university on an outstanding clergyman and layman, were presented to him and to George N. Shuster, assistant to the president of Notre Dame University and former president of Hunter College in New York.

FATHER MURRAY said that during the last four centuries, while society generally was giving increasing emphasis to freedom, the Catholic Church has not joined this human pilgrimage.

"On the contrary," he said, "it has opposed man's historical movement toward freedom."

He maintained that this stance by the Church was "right and necessary in the circumstances," since, historically speaking, it represented a defense of doctrinal authority and the authority of God against opposing counter-pressures.

But at the same time, he said, "there was also a failure on the part of the Church, her magistry and her people, chiefly the intellectuals. There was a failure to recognize the signs of the times, to look beneath the surface of error and deviation and to discern the genuine human aspiration that was at work — man's perennial aspiration to possess his birthright of freedom."

Father Murray, who has played

a leading role in preparation of the Second Vatican Council's pending declaration on religious liberty, said that "for all its dangers, freedom remains the first truth about man, a positive value, both personal and social, to be respected even when it involves man in error and evil."

He said the "turning point" in the Church's recognition of the importance of freedom came with Pope Pius XII. Then, he said, Pope John XXIII in his encyclical *Pacem in Terris* added freedom to the traditional "tried" of basic social principles — truth, justice and love.

"Finally," he said, "in its turn Vatican Council II has affirmed, in act even more than in word, the positive value of freedom within the People of God."

DESCRIBING freedom as "the forgotten truth" within the Church, he added: "The new age which the Church is entering is to be — such is our hope — the age of renewal of this truth."

Father Murray emphasized that an individual achieves true freedom only by a process of growth in "gradual stages." He said:

"Freedom therefore is inwardness, spontaneity, the capacity of a man to find within himself the reasons and the motives of his own right decisions and action, apart from external coercion. Freedom therefore is authenticity, truthfulness, fidelity to the pursuit of truth and to the truth when found.

"In further consequence, freedom is experienced as duty, as responsibility — as a response to the claims of justice, to the demands of rightful law, to the governance and guidance of legitimate authority.

"In its intimately Christian sense, however freedom has a higher meaning than all this. Freedom in the deepest experience of it, is love. To be free is to be-for-the-others.



ATTENDANCE AWARD — Knights of Columbus State Deputy Donald F. Cole, left, of Asheville, presents the State Council Attendance Award to Dr. Norman H. Lange, Grand Knight of Wilmington Council No. 1074. Presentation was made at the recent State Convention of the Knights of Columbus, held in Winston-Salem. Also in attendance from Wilmington were Mrs. Lange, Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Raymer, and Dr. & Mrs. N. F. Costin, Jr.

DIOCESAN NEWS BRIEFS

Receives Degree From Dunbarton College

Miss Mary Jane Hill daughter of Mrs. Ethel S. Hill of 811 South Seventh Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, was one of 120 members of the Class of 1965 of Dunbarton College of Holy Cross, Washington, D.C., on whom degrees were conferred at Commencement Exercises conducted at the college. His Excellency, the Most Reverend Patrick A. O'Boyle, D.D., Archbishop of Washington, presided and presented the degrees to the graduates.

Statesville Reception

A reception to bid farewell to Father Allan Foran, O.F.M., and to welcome Father Michael O'Keefe was held at St. Pius X Church, Statesville on the first Thursday of June.

Father Foran has been assigned to a Franciscan mission in Florida. Father O'Keefe, the new pastor, was most recently stationed at St. Ann's Church, Charlotte.

Wins Essay Contest

Miss Lenore Betty Micucci, a member of St. Pius X Parish, Statesville, is the recipient of an award for an essay on respect for the American flag. The award was presented by the Statesville Senior High School, where Miss Micucci finished in the first ten percent of the graduating class. She is also president of the C.Y.O. of St. Pius X.

Raleigh Court Installs Officers

Court Bishop Hafey No. 1088 of the Catholic Daughters of America has installed the following officers: Mrs. John Lilliquist, Grand Regent; Mrs. John Mohan, Vice Regent; Mrs. John Norkus, Prophetess; Mrs. John Donnelly, Financial Secretary; Mrs. Albert Allen, Historian and Mrs. Kenneth Stroud, Treasurer.

Other new officers include Mrs. A. S. Vanrer, Monitor; Mrs. J. M. Grundhoefer, Sentinel; Miss Tonia Long, Lecturer; and Mrs. John Higgins and Mrs. John Gregory as trustees. Mrs. C. S. Biggs, Past Grand Regent conducted the installation ceremony, which was held on the first Wednesday of June at the Pepsi Cola Auditorium, 2838 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh.

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