

RELIGION TODAY

Study Says Catholic Students Care More

A new study by the National Catholic Educational Association says that Catholic students in parochial schools have stronger "pro-family" views, express less support for the military and are more willing to contribute money to the poor than Catholic students in public schools.

The study compared the attitudes of 16,000 Catholic high school seniors in parochial schools as contrasted to Catholic students in public schools. Catholic educators hailed the results as showing that the parochial school system gives stronger "positive" influences to its students in many areas including closer affiliation with the church in terms of social values and moral goals.

The study also shows that Catholic school students attend church more regularly, give more money to the church and consider religion and religious values in general as more important to their lives than do the public school seniors.

While the Catholic school students are more likely to want to attend college, they also have a less positive view toward education than public school students. Catholic officials say this is due to the "more rigorous" academic demands in Catholic schools.

The study, released during the National Catholic Educational Association's annual convention in Toronto, is titled "The Heart of the Matter: Effects of Catholic High Schools on Student Values, Beliefs and Behaviors." It uses data gathered as part of an ongoing, annual government-

sponsored survey of 16,000 high school seniors called "Monitoring the Future."

"The results are very encouraging," said Michael Guerra, executive director of the Secondary Schools Department at NCEA. "The evidence clearly demonstrates that Catholic schools succeed in touching the hearts of their students. Unlike its public school counterpart, the Catholic high school is part of a larger setting in which strength is drawn from a common moral language, a common history and a shared vision of the human journey."

The study also showed that, in general, recent Catholic high school graduates shared the beliefs, values and behavior of their predecessors who attended Catholic schools 10 years ago. Catholic educators found this news encouraging—especially at a time when many in the United States have great concerns of the moral values and vision of the country's young people.

The 87th annual NCEA convention attracted more than 23,000 educators from the United States and Canada under the leadership of its president, Catherine T. McNamee. NCEA is the largest private, professional education association in the world.

Founded in 1904, the association's membership represents more than 200,000 educators serving 7.6 million students in Catholic education at all levels, including preschool, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, seminaries and religious education programs.



ACADEMIC CONVOCATION — The Nelson Mandela Academic Convocation in Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel on June 27 pictures, from left to right: Dr. James Costen, president of Interdenominational Theological Center; Dr. James Goodman, President of Morehouse School of Medicine; Dr. Thomas Cole, President of Clark Atlanta University; Dr. Johnetta Cole, President of Spelman College; Nelson Mandela; Dr. Calvert Smith, President of Morris Brown College and Dr. Leroy Keith, President of Morehouse College.

UNC Chapel Hill Provides Center For Black Cultural / Art Studies

CHAPEL HILL—For many in the black community, deciding to attend college brings into question giving up a piece of their culture, said Margo Crawford, co-chair of the National Association for Black Cultural Centers.

At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, however, minority students don't have to leave their culture behind, said Crawford, also director of UNC's Black Cultural Center.

"The university says it recognizes your culture and encourages you to build on it by providing the Black Cultural Center," she said.

UNC, the state's flagship public university and the first public university to open its doors in the country, boasts an enrollment of about 23,000 undergraduate and graduate students. More than 1,900 minority students attend the university.

Established in 1988 and located in UNC's Frank Porter Graham Student Union, the Black Cultural Center works to not only educate black students about their culture, but to encourage them to share that information with others.

"They need to know it's a responsibility of theirs to communicate their culture to others and become knowledgeable and responsive to other cultures," Crawford said. "The Black Cultural Center encourages students to read and be knowledgeable beyond themselves."

The need for such a center was first

expressed about seven years ago when members of the university's Black Student Movement petitioned administrators, she said.

"They indicated that although there had been a black presence on the campus since '51, they nonetheless felt marginal, on the fringe of things," Crawford said. "They felt a cultural center would help anchor them as a constituency and help race relations."

To date, the center has done just that, she added.

The center has three primary programs: a lecture series, cross-cultural communications workshops and a black music program.

The lecture series brings in scholars and speakers to focus on the black experience and to provide the campus with a bank of knowledge on black culture, Crawford said.

The communications workshops bring black and white students together for open discussions on cultural issues.

"The workshops let them come into the gap," she said. "They come from separate ground to middle ground to work out new relationships."

Workshop members participate in exercises to help overcome communication barriers between the races, she said. Black and white students, for example, may be asked to list barriers to effective communication across the racial lines. A printout of the lists is used as a springboard for workshop discussions.

Crawford said the final component of the center's programs, the black music programs, helps bring students together in a social setting to learn from one another.

Several university organizations "intersect" at the center, Crawford said, including many involved with race relations on campus. The center also provides support for faculty members and departments academically involved with teaching about racial issues and offers training programs for residence assistants.

"In general, we like the public to know we're here, that problems with understanding cultures is our business," she said.

Church Opens Anti-Drugs Tent Ministry

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The centerpiece of the United Methodist bishops' initiative against drugs and violence began here June 27 when five churches opened their summer tent ministries and ushered in hundreds of neighborhood children and parents.

These sprawling 20x60-foot tents, the color of army fatigues, are being dubbed "United Methodist Saving Stations," a term adopted for the program by the pastor of A.P. Shaw United Methodist Church in Washington.

One night during a midweek prayer service, members at Shaw, locked in the church to keep out intruders, heard the familiar sound of gunfire being exchanged between drug lords in the streets, recalled the Rev. Everett Stevenson on opening day here. They later heard cries for help.

When Stevenson opened the church doors that night he found the bodies of two young men shot to death. "They had come here trying to escape," he said.

"The tents are a temporary relief for drug addicts and others who need help, but God is a permanent healer. We have to truly be the church in order to bring that healing."

The "saving stations" will operate 24 hours a day to serve the needs of parents, children, drug addicts, drug dealers, the homeless and hungry. Red, white and blue "United Methodist Saving Station" signs, nearly seven feet tall, have been placed in front of each church.

According to Bishop Felton E. May, who is on a year's special assignment to lead the anti-drug and violence initiative, the ministry is designed to "gather the whole family" and bring the word of God to children in the community.

The "saving station" tents are located adjacent to five of the 14 churches that form the core of the anti-drug work in Washington and neighboring Maryland. The programs vary from site to site, but most will offer drug and family counseling, African culture and history, Bible school for youth and adults, shelter and food to "folks where they are," the bishop said.

KALEIDOSCOPE

BY RUTH HEINER

"Neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord" (I Corinthians 11:11).

"Husbands render unto the wife due benevolence" (I Corinthians 7:3). "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands" (Ephesians 5:22). "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loves the church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself" (Ephesians 5:25-28).

Neither man nor woman without each other IN THE LORD means marriage. Sex without marriage is not the Lord's way. The Lord ordained marriage beginning with Adam and Eve. "And they heard the voice of the Lord God, as they were walking in the garden, in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife went to hide themselves from the presence of the Lord amongst the trees of the garden" (from the Book of Moses 4:14).

In the era of the 1960s there was a movement of "do your own thing" that changed society, and has affected it since. In the name of free choice, sex became permissible... even flaunted. Without responsibility, commitment or marriage.

There was no revelation from God that changed His laws. The Ten Commandments were not rescinded, so who then would those who chose that irresponsible path, could they be following? The great deceiver Satan had his way with many who decided that way and to live for the moment. Forget about the future!

Marriage was no longer important, and commitment was inconvenient. "How do we know we are compatible?" was the experimenters' comment. No ties, and no responsibility became the "in thing," and seems to have stayed for many.

The Apostle Paul told the Hebrews (13:14), "Marriage is honorable in the all, and the bed undefiled, but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."

Teenagers face a big decision when they decide how they will handle the changes that came into their bodies to bring on adulthood and sex. Certainly he or she gets little guidance from what is shown on TV or in the movies. Current books, literature and art leave little to the imagination, with no regard for morality.

Often torn by what they see, the youth are not able to hear the counsel of parents and the clergy. The idols of the day that get the most publicity are of little help.

Should they selfishly gratify their own passions as they see others do, and take whatever they can get notwithstanding the negative consequences?

Although parents can advise and teach sexual responsibility, and set certain limits for their children, they are not there when the final decision is made. Only the youth will make that.

When Adam and Eve found that their eyes had been opened when they partook of the forbidden fruit, they hid themselves from God. They were expelled from the garden, and also

from the presence of the Lord; they could no longer be with Him. Thus they took on mortality, and as mortals they began to multiply and replenish the earth as the Lord had instructed them.

Disobedience separates men from God in any era of time. Without the Lord's help, Satan can have a great deal of influence on anyone, not just teenagers.

There is a part of us that makes us want to feel loved, and needed... at any age. Love and passion are not necessarily the same thing. Too often they are not. Passion and security are not the same thing. When two people love unselfishly and are committed to each other, for better or worse, in sickness and in health, they can have the uniting of body and soul that is meant for married couples.

Shallow, selfish desire foster unbridled passions that are only self-willed passing fulfillment, which often leaves those who indulge with no self-respect.

Total love and total commitment is the road to a lasting relationship of security.

Children born out of wedlock are becoming an economic problem in our society, to say nothing about the emotional stability of the children, or the unwed mothers. If it is a problem in our country, what kind of grief is it to the Heavenly Father who has set the guidelines for His children?

For centuries the problem of sexually transmitted diseases has plagued the promiscuous, and whole societies were destroyed in ancient times for that reason. The Lord eventually destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah who were lovers of themselves and homosexuals.

For the past few years the growth of AIDS has been a real threat for people who need a blood transfusion, or medical aid of any kind.

"Unclean, unclean," was heard from ancient peoples when others came near them, for they did not wish to contaminate them. People shunned them also. Today AIDS has become almost epidemic in proportion, and not just in America. Could God decide to destroy a continent?

The scriptures have warned us that in the last days before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord that the world will be wicked. "Who shall stand in that great day? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart."

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints unequivocally believe that God's commandments are the same in our day as they were in ancient times. Chastity and the sanctity of the marriage bed should not be defiled. Thou shalt not covet that which is not thine... has not been changed by revelation. "Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord" (Doctrine and Covenants 38:48).

Many of the youth today have not had guidance or good examples to follow. They only know what they see and hear at school, and in the media. Oh, how they need great teachers with good morals. In the name of free speech and freedom, the word moral has almost been a no-no, but not the acts.

"Just say no" was a grand slogan for drugs, and it would also be most appropriate for free sex.

Sisters Of Providence Held To Anniversaries

Several Sisters of Providence who formerly served in North Carolina recently commemorated their anniversaries of entrance into religious life at a June 30 celebration in Holyoke, Mass., where the order is based.

St. Raphael Hosts Leadership Meet On October 13

St. Raphael Catholic Church will host the Diocesan Leadership Conference Oct. 13 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

This year's theme is "The Face of the Church in the '90s: Called to Holiness, Ministry, Community." Keynote speakers are Dr. Leonard Doohan, professor at Spokane University, and Dr. Susan McBride from Duquesne University.

The conference is open to anyone who is interested in ministry for the church of the '90s. Mass will follow the conference at 3 p.m. For more information, call Father John Randall at 821-9713 or Sister Donna Daniels at 876-1581.

Journalist To Speak At Our Lady Of Lourdes

Wayne Weible, a Protestant journalist, will speak Aug. 22 on the Miracles of Medjugorje at Our Lady of Lourdes Church beginning at 7 p.m.

Weible has investigated the reported apparitions of the Blessed Mother in Medjugorje, Yugoslavia, and has made several trips there. For more information, call Edith Marina at 769-4664 or Mary Ann at 876-3379.

U. S. Catholics Membership Top At 57 Million

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The number of U.S. Catholics has topped 57 million, according to figures in the 1990 Official Catholic Directory.

The total of 57.01 million Catholics, a jump of more than two million from 1989's figure of 54.9 million, is due largely to the inclusion of Easternrite Catholics, according to Jeanne Hanline, managing editor of the directory, published by P.J. Kennedy and Sons of Wilmette, Ill. The directory was released June 21.

Power To Change...and grow

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...and grow

BY FRED AND JOANNE WILLIAMS



BY FRED AND JOANNE WILLIAMS
HOW CAN THE CHURCH MINISTER TO BLACK MEN IN THE COMMUNITY?

In the interview with Pastor William Saunders, Franklin, Va.

This week we continue with the question of the three major needs of men in the black community. Pastor Saunders: "So that's the number two thing, men are not willing to commit themselves. Thirdly is a lack of accountability. We are often taught that we are our own man. As a result, we have accepted the idea that we don't have to be accountable to anyone. Today, we know just as much as our bosses or supervisors. We don't want to be accountable to our governmental leaders. I have never seen the day when men would openly slander and rebuke the president of this great country as they do today. We are not accountable to our pastors in our local churches. Husbands and fathers are not accountable to their wives and children. Men are not even accountable to their own parents."

"The attitude is this: 'Nobody can tell me what to do.' We ritualize this. 'Take these three attributes away from a man (failure to accept responsibility, lack of commitment to relationships and lack of accountability).

and you end up with nothing. "If you take these three areas away from a man, you have a poor specimen of a black man in the community or in the church or in the home."

Question: Having identified these needs, how can the church minister to these men on their level?

"I think that one major way that the church can minister is, number one, to gain the confidence of men. We are not going to gain the confidence of men who are in the secular world, merely by saying, 'I am a Christian.' We have known and seen even among the clergy, we have seen a type of immorality, a type of distrust. Many men who have emerged to leadership have not themselves overcome the problems of the secular society."

"First, men must cultivate relationships among the men of our own local churches. We must help these men overcome in these three areas. We can, along with these men, reach out to men in our communities who we know. We also need to draw them together in settings such as Bible studies or small group meetings where we can display trust, loyalty, commitment, accountability, helping them to develop these traits through teaching and training."

Attend Church On Sunday!