

Publicity through the press has been initiated, and this should be extended. Posters and letters should be distributed to vicinity high schools, as our program, even at this early stage, is one of the most expansive in western New York state.

To the same end, a high school press conference should be held yearly on the campus as was done in the thirties with some success. In coordination with this, there should be an annual award competition for the best high school papers as judged by the journalism faculty at St. Bonaventure College. This plan has the sanction of Father Thomas and Father Irenaeus, who suggested recently that the press conference program be revived.

4. Concentration in Journalism. The great pressing need of the year of preparation, however, has been a clearer definition of plans for the expansion of the journalism program. It is this primarily which prompted the preparation of the report, since students interested in pursuing a journalistic career inquire frequently whether they will be able to pursue the journalism curriculum as a major field of concentration.

The findings of A Survey of Journalism Education in Catholic Colleges in the U.S. (Appendix I) emphasize very definitely that there exists a dearth of education in journalism in Catholic colleges not only in New York state and the rest of the East but throughout the nation. In New York State, only Fordham University, which launched its present expanded program in the fall of 1946, offers a fuller program than ours, and only Siena College can be said to be in the same class with us.

This deplorable situation can be traced for the most part to indifference and neglect on the part of college educators. The crying need of the hour, as so strongly brought out in recent essays in leading journals and in the exhortations of at least one great Christian crusader², is for good Catholic writers. Certainly the Catholic journalism school is not the sole fountainhead for producing such men and women, but is a major one. As shown by a recent survey, journalism education in Catholic colleges is "generally accepted where a demand is made for it, but...greater integration of this study might be made within colleges and between colleges to Catholic advantage for the lay apostolate of producing militant Catholic writers."³

It is interesting to note just how neglected the matter is. A communication in April, 1948, to the Journalism Section from the Department of Education of the National Catholic Welfare Conference,

² Reference is made especially to an article in Atlantic Monthly for January, 1946, by Harry Sylvester, to another article in the February 28, 1948, issue of Commonweal, and to the establishment of a \$30,000 novel award and a \$10,000 drama award by Father James Keller and The Christophers. In Mr. Sylvester's article, he writes: "There are no living American Catholics who are major writers. By two rules of thumb, I suggest that American Catholic writers have been found wanting; individually, they've failed to produce (1) a sufficient quantity of work or (2) a high quality of it."

³ The Catholic Journalist, July, 1947, p. 8