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Commission II



I - The University Student - future leader of society

It is of our knowledge that the main task of the University is to afford the student an integral formation. That is: the University must give the student not only a technical formation according to his profession, but also the necessary means to become, as an intellectual, a true leader of the society. We include in this expression -"true leader" - everyone who is, by his special formation, capable of a strong and decisive influence on the community of which he is, a member. In this sense, leaders are those who accomplish a task of orientation and direction, whatever may be their posts.

The features of such a task may be summed up in the achievement of his own daily duties towards the family, the profession of the State. These duties must be carried out informed by Charity and a full sense of Justice. A Christian integral formation is, therefore, required to join a suitable technical basis, to a religious and philosophic background - the only way for the student to improve his knowledge about life and to develop, to the utmost, his own personality.

This preparation of true leaders, through it has a special value regarding the post-university life, should start as soon as the student enters the University. In fact, the community has from the beginning a great responsibility towards the student: to give him that formation he is expecting for, to make him a leader, whatever may be his own vocation, so that he may get the best profit from his personal gifts of intelligence, and heart and so, may promote in the community the most favorable conditions for the common welfare.

↖ But - let us say it - the student has also a specific contribution to give the community to which he belongs, and is his duty not to refuse it.

Federations of Catholic Students have a very important paper to play in this formation of the future leaders of the Society. In one hand, they must help the University to fulfil its own task, both improving the University structure and helping it to achieve its aim, as an institution. In the other hand, Federations must be, through its directions and activities, a true source of leaders, who may be always competent in their work and full of Charity towards the other people. So, the formation of leaders must be one of the most important topics in the program of the Federations. From it depends the Catholic graduate's contribution to society. Much more than that of a non-Catholic, the contribution of a Catholic in social life must be a coherent, original, effective and

dynamic presence, giving raise to an intelligent, efficient and charitable action.

II - The formation of a Catholic graduate leader

According to the statement of the Federation ^{✓ on} this subject, we can emphasize three points, which seem to be fundamental nowadays for the formation of a Catholic leader:

1. - The students must be given a sound spiritual formation, both religion and philosophical.

Federations are supposed to give their members not a superficial formation only suitable for the present moment, rather a complete, sound formation for the future.

A good teaching on Liturgy will make them more and more conscious of Church life and so, feel to the botton the true Christian comanity spirit. The Mass is the essential element to introduce the Students in the central mystery of Liturgy.

As for theology, there is a real contribution they may bring to it, by their scientific and professional knowledge and training. Christ being the centre of their lives, their intellect will submit to Faith. Notwithstanding, there must always be a precaution to fight against a common tendency to intellectual dilettantism.

Federations have organised courses on these subjects and tried to study and spread the Church doctrine concerning the different problems of the modern world.

2. - Students must possess a clear and strong mind, which enables them to think by themselves.

Federations stressed the importance of study and discussion in small groups, where the students can improve their judgement and present their own opinions. In circles of studies, lectures, seminars, etc., they not only deal with pure theological subjects, but also try to exchange their own ideas about the philosophical basis of various branches of Science or the connection among them, and, chiefly, about a true concept: of life.

- ~~3. - Students must be given the opportunity.~~



3. Students must be given the opportunity to accomplish some concrete task or work, to promote activities in different fields of action, to be in contact with the various problems and feel how responsible they are in the solution of those problems;

The main task of each Federation is to find the best way to get apostles, who may be Christ's bearers, wherever they are. This cannot be achieved only by giving them a certain apostolic task, but just making them aware of the real needs of the modern world, of the Catholic community, namely those of their own country. Before such realities, the students will become conscious of their duties towards their fellow-creatures, not refusing Charity and self-sacrifice.

In many Federations a social work has been efficient to call students' attention to their apostolic responsibilities; the medical missions, the dealing with delinquent children, the regular visits to poor quarters, to prisons, etc, are very good means to break with their selfishness, to improve their own lives, in order to serve better the community. And whenever this practical action is accompanied by a theoretical teaching, whenever the knowledge of the practical situation is followed by the knowledge of the general problem in itself (as for instance, in the case of the assistance to delinquent children) - so much the better.

The Federation must help the students to discover their own apostolic vocation. For this purpose, it is necessary not only to open a very large number of fields for activities but also to make every student aware that he has a definite task to accomplish. Every student has a new approach to the problems and gives an original contribution to the community life. By the personal action the leaders of the groups within the Federation must help every student to realize his own task within the community and to fulfill himself through it.

Besides these fundamental points there are still other means of formation for the Catholic University leader, which should not be forgotten; libraries, for instance, and periodicals can be extremely useful for the teaching and spreading of the Church doctrine, as for the adapting and translating of some articles from PAX ROMANA Journal. Let us remember that the main purpose of this Journal is just to give formation to the members of the movement and it is their fault if they do not pay that publication the due attention, and do not try to make it known to the simple student.

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leadership. Federations find it would be convenient the publication of some book on leadership. So, the Directing Committee asks by some Federations to publish a pamphlet on how to be a leader or how to form a leader - general rules to be adapted to the particular conditions and necessities of the Federations.



III - General Conclusions

From the experiences reported by the Federations and from the peculiar attention devoted to the problem of how to form leaders, were stressed the following points:

1. - It is absolutely necessary, in order to form leaders, to make them aware of the problems in an international level. All the members present at this meeting have the special duty of creating in the other members of their Federations an international way of thinking according to Pax Romana.
2. - It is necessary to promote more and more the cooperation between the Federations, stressing their mission as an apostolic community. That means a missionary group, ^{not} closed within its own walls but really centred in Christ, looking for the personal Sanctity of the members and spreading all over the world the love of God.
3. - It is a necessary task of our Federation to make the students aware of the special needs of their countries, creating in them a full sense of responsibilities towards the community they belong to. ~~For~~ Three conditions are particularly required; a precise knowledge of realities and problems; the possibility of apostolic work in different fields of action; a great interest on the personal vocation of every Federation member. The orientation and methods of our Federation should be revised on this light.
4. - It is necessary to provide the Federations with an orientation and a technique on leadership, suitable for the special character of the Movement - a Movement whose members are, as university people, the future leaders of the society and, as catholics, the present ^{of the Church} in every sphere of life.