

ENQUIRY OUTLINES

1) The Mystical Body. This is the foundation for the work of the week. A realisation of this doctrine is not only the basis of the students' future work, but the essential ingredient if the Seminar is to be a fruitful, working community.

Meetings in Groups of not more than 10 students.

ENQUIRY 1 INTRODUCTION:

1) Introductions. Each student gives his name, country, tribe, and University. (Name tabs should be used. If possible, it would be valuable if each student had a map of Africa, on which he could mark where the other members of his group come from).

2) Is there unity among the countries of our Group? Which factors encourage unity? Why? Is there unity among the tribes? Which factors encourage it there?

3) What are the factors (e.g. language) which tend to separate us? See how many you can find in your group.

4) Each member of the group write a short note (not more than 3 lines) on what he thinks is our purpose as Christians in the world. Combine these notes to give a group pooling of ideas.

ENQUIRY 2 THE MYSTICAL BODY:

The Groups would study the Gospel of St. John and St. Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians in this part. It might be best if some Groups do one enquiry and some the other, so that when they come to the general meeting they will have studied the subject from different angles.

A. Gospel St. John XV 1-6

- i) Who is represented as the true vine?
- ii) Who are the branches?
- iii) What do we know about plants? How does a branch bear fruit? Describe in detail, and compare with Christianity.
- iv) Describe the structure of the Church that Christ founded. Christ, the Holy Father, Bishops, priests, brothers, catechists, laymen—the connections between these, and the role of each.
- v) Can University students be compared to a small branch in the vine? Who are the twigs attached to them?
- vi) What happens to the twigs when the branch is healthy and vigorous?
- vii) What happens to a man and his followers if that man is cut off from the Grace and Strength and Truth of the Church?

B. St Paul to the Corinthians 12

- i) Recall what was found in the first Enquiry as the differences between us. What does St. Paul have to say about differences of this sort?
- ii) How can the spirit of Christianity smooth out Tribal rivalries, and also the distinctions that may arise between educated and illiterate people in the same district. What is your experience now? What difficulties have you met with? How were they overcome?
- iii) What happens to a man who has no eyes? What would happen to a country with no priests or religious? What would happen to a country with no Catholic University students? In what ways does the work for Christ of the Catholic Students depend on the Hierarchy and the priests?
- iv) Is the priest or teacher able to replace the influence of the Catholic student on his fellow students? Each member of the group sit silently for a minute and write a short note on what he thinks is the most important influence that a Catholic student should have on his fellows; then combine these thoughts in the group.



- v) The fingers in my hand can work for me because they get strength and life from my body as a whole. How does the Christian get the Grace and Strength and Truth to be a Christian?
What happens if a Christian gives up prayer and the Sacraments?
What happens if he does not seek the truth in his studies?

Referring to the situation as discussed in Enquiries one and two and in the light of your studies in Enquiry two, each group should write down three ways in which it considers that the University student should help to encourage unity in his country and in his continent—Practical, and possible suggestions only! !

(This last point would form a very effective means of referring back to these preliminary discussions when the Apostolate, and the Programme of Action for Africa are discussed.)

2) The Lay Apostolate Section.

- A. The Lay Apostolate Themes
- The University
 - The Vacation
 - General Principles as in U.C.S. Student Apostolate presence, service, contact.

(If the talk is given in this way, U.C.S. will be sending out copies of the Student Apostolate, and the students at the Seminar will have something positive to refer to, and to remind them of the lecture when they go back to their Universities.)

Discussion.

The University (nothing on Vacations, though something is needed, and I will try to discuss something with Richard Nesterman and Fr. Matevu)

- ii) In what ways are student life and customs guided by religion (i.e. attitude to studies, attitude to each other, attitude to authorities)? Which student customs tend to crowd religion out of life?
- i) Each member of the group write down what he considers to be his duty as a Christian towards his fellow student. Combine these in the group.
- iii) Each member name his Faculty, and suggest how Truth may be discovered through studying his subject, and how Truth may be conveyed to non-Catholic students through studies in this Faculty.
- iv) Is the search for Truth really pursued in your Universities? Or is it a wild rush to get the exams? What should be the attitude? pass exams? What can Catholic Students, and their federations do to encourage the pursuit of Truth?

B. The Catholic Society as a Leaven in University

For all students in a University, the University is a centre of life, a social experience, and an intellectual experience. To what extent does the Catholic Society influence the University as a whole?

Discussion.

- i) What function do you think your Catholic Society performs in the Church?
- ii) Is the Society only for keen Catholics or do they all come along?
How can it attract all types? Consider the difficulties that you have experienced. How were they overcome?
- iii) What are the factors that unite a Catholic community?
What do you think are the most important functions performed by the Chaplain?
- iv) What factors tend to hinder the growth of a lively corporate spirit?
How are strangers received? How can a spirit of Charity be developed?
- v) How can the Catholic Society help members in their training for the Apostolate? Practical suggestions!
- vi) What are the duties of the Catholic Society towards the student community? acting as a group and as individuals. What experience have you of the contact of non-Catholics through the Society?



C. The Group and Group Leadership

(Note: It is vitally important to make a clear distinction between the Catholic Society, and the Small group, set up within the Society for the special formation and development of the members in the Apostolate. Wherever the University itself is neutral—at least in the English speaking Universities, with the possible exception of South Africa—there is always a Catholic Society intended to bring together all the Catholics in the University, on the pattern of the Universities in Great Britain; in these cases groups will be set up within and at the service of the Society. Where the University is Catholic, and even sometimes when it is not, there may not be a Catholic Society, but an organization of Groups, bringing together the active Catholic students. Unless this distinction is made, and understood in lectures and discussions, then great confusion will be caused, and much harm done. This distinction is not made in the discussion points that have been sent out, nor in the lecture programme.)

Talk: Very short. Need of Group work in formation and intellectual training; exchange of ideas, development of team spirit, generating Truth Charity, and corporate responsibility.

Group Meeting.

Discussion of Groups and their Purpose.

3) The Discussion Notes

In general these are much too diffuse to form a good basis for discussion. This is the reason for the suggested Enquiries on the Apostolate and on the Catholic Society. These enquiries are based on some in the U.C.S. Student Apostolate publication. I should certainly hesitate to try to use the discussion notes in England without considerable changes for in many cases they are confusing rather than clarifying, sometime because the ideas suggested are questionable, but often because the order is bad or incomplete.

It seems to be the old Pax Romana heresy that it is necessary to consider everything, and all possible ideas if the mind is to keep a balanced view, when what is needed; wisdom, consists not in knowing everything, but in knowing what you do know in the right way, and it is acquired by using the mind in the right way on a few ideas at a time.

I hope to be able to make some suggestions on enquiry outlines, but there is not time at present. On the question of order of discussion and lecture, this is much more valuable especially in a week of this nature if the lecture follows a preliminary discussion in which the students have been able to discuss the questions from their own experience, without feeling that they have been told the answer already; their minds are then prepared for the subject of the lecture. The points that they have found that are confirmed by the lecturer are that much more firmly implanted in their minds; those that are not will be explained and their errors of reasoning (if any!) will be pointed out, and, if it has been possible for the lecturer to attend the discussions—, the lecturer can help in turning the lecture to the particular needs of the audience. Since all the subjects in the programme can be discussed without specialist information there would seem to be many advantages in its adoption.



SUGGESTIONS FOR COURSE NOTESInstructions to Groups Leaders and Secretaries :

Leaders: Prepare the meetings before they are held. Leaders together.
 Keep all your group members active. Make sure that everyone is included in the discussions.
 Your job is to help the members to think, to get the answers from them.
Do not give a sermon or answer all the questions yourself.
 Keep the discussion simple enough for all to understand.
 Explain in your own words if one of your members is puzzled.
 Use examples from your own life if possible.
 Make sure that the secretary is taking note of the precise answers to the questions
 Be short and clear in your instructions.
 Get started on the work immediately—Keep the discussion short and to the point. Make sure that the questions have been answered as thoroughly as possible.
 The work of your group in the general meetings will depend on your leadership in the discussions.
 Make sure that every member is making note of the answers, since these will be of value to him when he returns to his own University.

Secretaries:

You are responsible for the group note-book:
 Keep it tidy.
 Make a short note of the answer to the questions.
 Prompt the leader if the group is getting behind time.
 At the general meeting you will be asked to read out the answers to the questions that your group has covered.

Leaders and secretaries should be elected by their groups and should be changed for each days work.

Care should be taken to avoid groups being dominated by any one country, or one tribe.

Close watch should be kept on the groups to ensure that all are working well together.



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NOTE: A very large amount of the material in this memorandum was contributed by Richard Masterman, and from the Union of Catholic Students of Great Britain publication *The Student Apostolate*.