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Barreiro, 5th April 1955



Dear Charles:

I must apologise for my long delay in replying to you. The last two months were very busy and I can't do all the things I want. Last February I went to Switzerland for the meeting of the Directing Committee of Pax Romana and to Germany for professional affairs. So I have no time for writing to you. But I am very interested in your problems of African students. Surely the fact that the Universities are very new is a great difficulty because you have no yet a group of graduates that would help you very much.

I think that you see the problem very well. We know that we are connected in the Mystic Body of Christ but we must know and live this idea in concrete. This means that we must try to establish a catholic community in all the levels of our work. For our apostolate work it is fundamental. We must attain a national consciousness of our responsibilities. For this purpose, we must know the other groups of catholic students of our country and make with them a very serious study of the tasks of the apostolate work to be done in the University. We attain with that a greater depth and we can correspond to the difficulties of the country. Can't you make a meeting with St. Ferdinand and St. Societies next Summer? I agree with you that it is fundamental for your country. Perhaps the basic points of such meeting may be:

1. - The role of the University
2. - The University of your country and the society in general (search of the tasks to be done by the university people and then how to prepare the students for them).
3. - Basic points of a national program of your apostolate work.

Many things are already done in the field of the apostolate work. I think that they may be very useful for you. Do you know the books published by Pax Romana "Catholic Action in the University" and "Intellectual Apostolate"? They are the reports of two study weeks of some Deferations of Pax Romana in the world and they explain some interesting experiences.

I hope that you will be soon a Federation affiliated to Pax Romana because our catholic community may be really the Movement of all the group of catholic students in the world. For that, it is necessary to intensify the regional work with the groups who have a number of points of contact.