



Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo
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Dear Patrick,

I must apologise for my delay in replying to you, but I was very busy during the last two months and I was waiting for other news from Africa before writing to you.

(I am sorry but my English is not very good. I will try to be clear.)

Your letter gave me a great joy because through it I could see your good plans about your apostolate work.

Last February I was in Switzerland for the meeting of the Directing Committee of Pax Romana-MIEC and we spoke about your problems of apostolate work in Africa. All the people in the D.C. are very interested in helping the African students as well as they can.

I write to the chaplain but I must say that I prefer to change news with the students, because the chaplain, although being the responsible for their work, is not, by nature, the leader of the laymen's apostolate. Do you think so?

I have thought about the situation of the African students and of the Catholic groups. You have the future of Africa in your hands. This is tremendous and wonderful too! You have a very great work to do! And in Africa, as in the other countries of the world, the university people are the most responsible for the social life. Among the others, the university men and women must be the guiders, those who are able to direct the others in all the fields of life. As Catholics we must achieve the implications of our Catholicism = Charity isn't an old word without sense in our century; it must be the nucleus of our lives.



The words of the Gospel are new nowadays when we think about these countries of Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe too: "Euntes in mundum universum praedicate Evangelium omni creaturae".

In the University we must find the special way to attain the aims of our school-fellows. We must also live in the team-spirit. That unity that binds us in the Mystic Body of Christ and the unity of the real work in the apostolate.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

So, I think that it is a corollary of our unity in the Church, that we must try to help us one another. In this idea it is very good to get a national consciousness of our responsibilities in the Church. I think it is very available for you in Gold Coast have meeting with the Aquinas Society of the University College in Achimota, to establish the programm of your apostolate work. Perhaps you should hold a meeting with the leaders of the two group and study together the following points:

1. the conditions of your country for the work of the Church (the natural basis, the level of education, the geographical conditions, the political, social and economic structures



2. the role of the University
3. the concrete position of the University in your country.
4. the immediate tasks of your apostolate in the University, their planning and how to find the preparation for them (here a very precise program of spiritual and intellectual life, for everybody).

Please, tell me what you think about this, and if you want, speak or write about this to Edward Ulzen, S 23 Legon Hall, University College, Accra who is very interested in working with you.

I think that the books published by Pax Romana "Catholic Action in the University" and "Intellectual" Apostolate" may be very useful for you. I can assert that they were fundamental for the work of my Federation. I will ask the General Secretariat of Pax Romana to send them to you. They are the reports of two study weeks (1950 and 1951) and they contain a summary of the experience of some Federations of Catholic students in the world.

If you have some ideas or projects about the apostolate work in Africa or if you ave any report of your work in Kumasi College



Technology that is useful for the other people, you ought to write to the African Newsletter editor. Do you know him? His address is:

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And now tell me something about you. What do you study? Engineering? This is my job. I am a chemical engineer; I finished two years ago and now I am working in a research department applied to the industry. I am very interested in knowing you well.