



Grailville, Agosto 57

In the marionette show of the first night it was said : "God does not wish men to live apart, but he wishes them to live united, and therefore reveals to each of them what is necessary for all".

Almost all of you come from the student milieu. You are also acquainted with the meaning of the University in the social life. You know that the University has as one of its specific tasks the formation of true leaders for all the professions and the training of mature personalities. All these people who attend the University are very near of your own fields of work and life. So, it seems to me that you have to build with them real ties and perhaps form a true community.

I should like that you think now for a few minutes what are the needs and the ideas of the thousands of catholic university students who belong to Pax Romana.

In each University now all over the world there is a group of catholic people who try to share in the apostolic mission of the Church. If we look at the map of the world we will be surprised with the real meaning of each country and continent. We will see the south of Asia become greater and greater because there is there the greatest density of population, we see Europe become **greater** than it really is (in spite of the fact that one of your                      told me in the last week that Europe is indeed a small country now). We will see also that Africa becomes quite an indeterminate continent - more than 70% of the people are illetrated and all the new nationalities there ask for a great competence of all leaders and professional people. And if we see the Latin America which is, by its political instability, a true vulca'n



in the world, we will be astonished with the lack of permanent and suitable structures there. Europe, in spite of all the Movements for international cooperation which exist there, is tremendously divided and wondering about its destiny.

In such different situations, a new world is growing. How it will be ? Well, this new world depends on everybody of course but it depends on a tremendous way of the University people. They are related with all the planing of life and structures, with the development of new ideas. But their role is not only important in the society as a preparation. They are youth, so they are able to understand that the world is suffering of a tremendous lack of unity and guidance and love. With their cultural and scientific training at the University they can give to the solution of problems their countries are facing a positive contribution. Mainly, because they are catholic, they share the Love of Christ for every man and for the City of men.

This living charity of University people has, of course, as its first aim, the christianization of the University - that means every man, every woman who are there, but that means also the University as a whole. But the University student doesn't live isolated in and for the University - he is member of a wider community. He is member of a parish, of a town, of a country, he is a member of the world. So, all his apostolic work embraces all these fields. In this way, many groups of catholic students do, for instance, social work in their environments and it can be an invaluable one - that is the case of most countries in Asia. Other groups have a strong influence on the political situation itself - it is the case of most countries in Latin America. Many other fields of action have been worked out. But what matters now is that all these efforts are not isolated at all. All





these people throughout the world are united not only in their general aims but more concretely in searching a deep meaning for their work and in establishing concrete program of action. This unity has an institutional support that is called Pax Romana.

Getting all these students together, Pax Romana becomes an international Movement. So it has a real international life of exchange of experiences and of representativity near the other international organizations, mainly the United Nations and its agencies. Just now we are planning a round table conference with all the University international movements which can bring together catholics, protestants, jewish, even communists, under the auspices of Unesco, for studying the Man, the University and Society. But in order to have a real representativity in these bodies, Pax Romana tries to form in each student a deep consciousness of his brotherhood with all the students and men all over the world. In this way, we have special projects in which every student has to participate. Only one example : our main project this year is Africa. We foster the different groups there and we will have a Seminar in December, in Ghana - do you know what it is ? This Seminar will be attended by two catholic leaders of each University in all african countries. There they will face the challenges of the Church in Africa today and will try to realize their responsibilities and to draw a serious program of action. This concerns too the other countries : each local or national group in all the world takes care of a specific group in Africa and they will start the work of preparation in a great and fruitfull collaboration on all levels. You can see how to pray everyday for the students who live so far from us, to exchange with them ideas and experiences, to give them the material help they need for their apostolic work, how all these things can give a living

sense of what the universal Church is and that the real love has no bounds.



But within Pax Romana there are men and women. A study has been undertaken on the international level, on the meaning of the University vocation for women. On the national level, some Federations have special programs and they try to give to the girls a feminine perspective to all the problems and situations. This has been carried out through courses, articles, all kinds of discussions. For the next year and as the follow up of what has already been done, Pax Romana will make a confrontation of the situation of University women in all the countries and will have a meeting as international as possible to discuss the specific needs the university girls have and the way in which our groups can answer to them. Our fundamental aim with this program is really to give to all university women a deep consciousness that their university vocation cannot be as it is for the men. This university vocation has only a sense if it is an expression of the possibilities of dedication the woman has in her and a true fulfilment of the motherhood. So, the women in University must be the source of all power which comes from the Mother - the quietness, the steadiness, the irradiating and balanced Love. And in their social life after the University they must put on action not so much their technical abilities but their Love improved and enlightened by their cultural studies.

All these ideas would be too much theoretical if they would remain only as nicewords. For putting them in practice we need different experiences and the personal interest of everybody. We only will be able to do it in so far as every woman and girl all over the world, and mainly in the Catholic Church will be more deeply herself and will



give all the loving power which is so in the root of Church itself. So, each of you is responsible for the work we do in Pax Romana and for the future of the University apostolate and the trends of society. Because in the Mystical Body we are not alone; we alltogether are searching for God and He wishes us to live united.

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