

# AMERICA

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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Dear Mother Clark, Y

Your letter of May 15 proposed two queries for booklet no. 7 on Social Action: 1. how educate college students on the matter of combating prejudice. 2. Suggestions for the campus level. Here are some ideas.

In answer to No. 1, would suggest:

1. Study the story of the Manhattanville Resolutions in 1933, which opened the movement for the Catholic Interracial Council. You have this in my book, No Postponement (Longmans, 1950), pp. 74-81. It is also mentioned in The Manner is Ordinary.

The older generation picked up the girls' idea, and made it their own. e.g. Negro educators and journalists and editors; Catholic educators; presidents of Senior and Junior classes in the colleges, etc. In two years the "Resolutions" had gone around the world. They were taken up for instance by The Southern Cross (South Africa), L'Osservatore Romano, etc. Cf. effects at Providence College (R.I.), Manhattan College, etc.

Interracial Justice was revealed as a special obligation, and (Fordham) Manhattanville as a "natural" place for its exemplification.

Mother Dammann was quoted in every Catholic book on sociology: e.g. Murray, Notre Dame; Ross; J. J. O'Connor, etc.

This was combined with my own insistence that no U.S. democracy could be predicated until the Negro found justice. (The Decl. of Ind. was only promises. He promises had to be made good.)

2. Emphasize that this is the age of the laity: call to action by the Holy See, etc. Pius XII, John XXIII, the Bishops, etc. Subject of one of the nine special commissions for the Second Vatican Council.

3. We are living in the greatest crisis in history: a death struggle. What our youth do here profoundly affects the fate of our country and of our Church in the eyes of other peoples. Affects the fate of Africa, which is the key turning point in the present situation. If our young people in the U.S. fail Africa, Africa will be won by the Soviets.

In answer to No. 2: campus level:

As undergraduates, the girls, with few exceptions, are still part of their respective families. They cannot profitably engage in a lot of discursive activities outside the campus. Certain things, however, they can do without making inroads on their valuable college time.

1. They can convert the unconverted: not by harangues or arguing, but by quietly maintaining a position, which rests upon a solid ground. They don't preach this position, or force it upon others; but know the answers when they are asked. Opportunities for this at home, at parties, etc.

Even in their family circle, they can do much good to the cause by testifying to the soundness of the NAACP, by a just evaluation of the Southern Negro student protests, etc.; by refusing to go along with false ideas as to the absolute sacredness of property, (in the housing situation), etc. Saying much is not the thing. It is simply being ready or willing to be counted.

Above all, today, the recognition of the moral problem involved. This is particularly necessary since there is a sort of pseudo-conservative propaganda going around to the effect that these are not moral issues, but a merely political, invention of "liberals," etc.

2. They could perhaps revive the practice of ~~interracial~~ Interracial

Justice Week in the Catholic Colleges, which was formerly such an effective feature of the NFCCS.

3. Discussions could be encouraged, if intelligently conducted. Certain individuals could be encouraged to become "authorities," a) on the factual aspects, etc.; and b) on the deeper spiritual implications of interracial justice. Study the proceedings of the National Catholic Conference on Interracial Justice in St. Louis, Aug. 27, 29, 1960.

4. Look ahead to the time after graduation. In this connection, I know nothing better than Mother Dammann's own words, spoken as a warning in this respect. Some may wish to join with the Alumni Race Relations Council, which from its nature, as addressed to recent graduates, needs to be recruited each year.

This period, in my view, is the crucial time, and the one the most neglected. It is the time when students of other races of peoples feel most keenly the cooling of friendship on the part of those who are so nice and cosy during college years.

N.B. action for charities, Thanksgiving, etc., for other nations? It would be well to point out the remarks on this question contained in the material of the Sister Formation movement (Mo. Emil).

6. Encourage, if it seems advisable, undergraduate studies of certain points, e.g. the Social Encyclicals, and others yet untapped or not fully tapped sources.

I hope these may be a bit helpful.

If anything more I can do, please call on me. I shall be away until June 29, and July 1 to 5.

Asking your kind prayers, I am

Faithfully yours in Our Lord

J. LaFarge S-

Rev. John LaFarge, S.J.

I will telephone Miss Phelan tomorrow. Perhaps she can find a way to do something about simple hospitality for a lovely group of Filipino lady--and men--doctors, residents and internes, in Manhattan Harlem Hospital. They confided to a French M.D. friend of mine that they come to the U.S. and go away without ever having seen a "real U.S. home." They are charming people.