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RETREAT NOTES

PROLOGUE: Father Oehm stressed that two-thirds of the success of a retreat depends on the retreatant. This is a euphemistic way of saying "Keep quiet".

Maybe to some students keeping silence is a suffering. All the more fortunate for them! Sufferings are the stepping stones to heaven. The person who never has a temptation is a good person. The person who is tempted and resists the temptation is a better person.

FIRST CONFERENCE: Where would my eternity be if I were to drop dead?

The awareness of my ultimate end which I derive from my annual retreat provides a balance wheel to keep me on the right track, to regulate my life. To borrow from the military, we are starting on a "campaign" rather than a "retreat". A campaign for the capture of Heaven and the overthrow of the devil.

The hedonist spirit of today, "Get as much out of life as you can, but avoid the consequences," cannot satisfy the heart of man. St. Augustine declared that a heart will not rest until it has Heaven. God has implanted in all a driving desire for happiness. An all-just God would not do this if He did not intend eventually to fulfill that desire.

Where is my eternity to be? This life is the preparation.

SECOND CONFERENCE: Why am I here? Obviously not for wealth, fame, or fortune.

Father Oehm pointed out that the answer can be found in the Primary Catechism: "To know, love, and serve God in this world and to be happy with Him forever in Heaven".

If we know God, we will certainly love Him, and from loving Him, we naturally will serve Him. Father declared that we should learn our Faith so that we can live it in our daily lives. "Know it, love it, live it, defend it, die for it."

Catholicism and Communism cannot exist in the same land. The time may come when we may be called upon to die for our Faith. If we are Catholics in name only, we will not have the "intestinal fortitude" to die for Catholicism. Only those of us who know, love, and live our Faith will be willing to defend it, to die for our Catholic principles.

Postscript: Do you know why Catholics abstain from meat on Friday?

(In this conference Father Oehm gave a boost to Father Keller's "You Can Change the World". Thanks, Father J. K. is a Fontbonne favorite.)

THIRD CONFERENCE: How do you treat your best friend? "Greater love hath no man than that he should lay down his life for his friend." And who is the Friend of all men? Who gave His life in recompense for our sins?

In following the way of Christ we must follow the road of poverty and suffering and use poverty and hardship as stepping stones to Heaven. The malice of sin is that we turn from God. Man defies God when he commits mortal sin. This turning away is contrary even to the Eternal Law which demands retribution for our sins in the life to come.

Respect for some person sometimes leads us to conform to God's laws more than does any supernatural motive. We would make every effort to refrain from letting our friend down. Why not make a little supernatural effort to keep from letting down our Best Friend—Christ?

FOURTH CONFERENCE: Am I confessing my failings to God or to man?

The question above poses a problem to many non-Catholics who "would otherwise be one with us." They fail to understand the teachings of the Catholic Church on Confession. Why, they ask, should they tell their sins to another man with all the frailties of nature, instead of directly to God?

It would be absurd to think that another human being has the power to forgive sins. We confess our sins to God in the person of the confessor. The Sacrament of Penance was instituted by God, not by man.

Many Catholics fail to examine their consciences properly before going into the confessional; this causes a hardship to the penitent and particularly to the confessor. Catholics should try to make Confession a blessing, not a burden.

ALSO -- Nothing can stop a Fontbonne girl--not sleet, icy streets, or sporadically scheduled busses and streetcars. On a day cold enough to freeze all good resolutions there were 157 students on retreat: 21 seniors, 37 juniors, 36 sophomores, and 62 freshmen. . . . One junior affirmed, "I have noticed in this retreat a marked improvement in the keeping of silence. I believe much credit should go to the numerous and clever reminders posted on all sides. . . . From a senior: The first day of retreat and the first day of the dialog Mass. It may have been a bit confused, but it gave us an opportunity for actual participation in the Mass; participation not merely of the spiritual or mental side of our being, but of the whole man. This participation brings an awareness of the unity of mankind in prayer, a union of all men in Christ, a union of men offering themselves together with Him, offering complete men without reserving the body for the world of time. . . . SILENCE IS GOLDEN.

OUR OWN CONTEMPORARIES

LUCILLE PAPIN BORDEN
 Francesca Cabrini
 ALBERT P. SCHIMBERG
 Story of Theresa Neumann
 THOMAS MERTON
 Exile Ends in Glory
 (Mother Berchmans,
 Trappistine)
 KATHERINE BURTON
 Bro. Andre of Mount Royal
 JOSEPH A. GLYNN
 Matt Talbot
 JOHN J. CONDIDINE
 When the Sorgum Was High
 (Fr. Gerard Donovan)
 SIMONE De NOAILLAT
 The King's Advocate
 (Marthe de Noaillet)
 JOHN C. MURRETT
 Tar Heel Apostle
 (Fr. T. Frederick Price)

IN ST. LOUIS and CHICAGO

DANIEL A. LORD
 My Mother
 Father Finn, S.J.
 HAROLD J. McAULIFFE
 Father Tim
 EDDIE DOHERTY
 Gall and Honey

THE LITTLE POOR MAN

GILBERT K. CHESTERTON
 St. Francis of Assisi
 MAURICE FRANCIS EGAN
 Everybody's St. Francis
 THEODORE MAYNARD
 Richest of the Poor
 ISIDORE O'BRIEN
 Mirror of Christ
 ALBERT PAUL SCHIMBERG
 Larks of Umbria

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

JOANNES JORGENSEN
 St. Catherine of Siena
 ALICE CURTAYNE
 St. Catherine of Siena
 JEANETTE EATON
 The Flame

ST. THOMAS MORE

CHRISTOPHER HOLLIS
 Thomas More
 THEODORE MAYNARD
 Humanist and Hero
 DANIEL SARGENT
 Thomas More

THE LITTLE FLOWER

SISTER THERESE OF LISIEUX
 An Autobiography
 BLANCHE NORTEVEILLE
 The Rose Unpetaled
 FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES
 Written in Heaven

MOTHER ELIZABETH SETON

LEONARD FEBNEY
 An American Woman
 KATHERINE BURTON
 His Dear Persuasion
 EALON and MOORE
 Heart in Pilgrimage

OUR DIVINE LORD,
 OUR BLESSED LADY,
 AND THEIR SAINTS

THE NEW TESTAMENT
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 Life of Jesus
 ISIDORE O'BRIEN
 Life of Christ
 JOSEPH DELABAYS
 Lady of Fatima
 JOHN De MARCHI
 The Crusade of Fatima
 FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES
 Grace of Guadalupe
 WILLIAM T. WALSH
 St. Peter the Apostle
 Teresa of Avila
 EVELYN WAUGH
 Edmund Campion
 MARGARET T. MUNRO
 Bl. Margaret Clitherow
 FRANCIS X. TALBOT
 Saint Among Savages
 GILBERT K. CHESTERTON
 St. Thomas Aquinas
 H. J. HEAGHNEY
 Behold This Heart!
 PAUL McCANN
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 a Ruthless King
 (St. John Fisher)

HILAIRE BELLOC
 Joan of Arc
 ALBERT S. FOLEY
 A Modern Galahad
 (St. John Berchmans)
 C.C. MARTINDALE
 Vocation of Aloysius
 Gonzaga
 ALICE CURTAYNE
 St. Brigid of Ireland

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 Father De Smet
 DANIEL SARGENT
 Mitri: Prince Gallitzin
 THEODORE MAYNARD
 The Reed and the Rock
 (Bishop Simon Brute)
 The Story of American
 Catholicism
 AGNES REPPLIER
 Mere Marie of the
 Ursulines

AMONG THE POPES

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 Reporter at the Papal Court
 CHARLES H. DOYLE
 Life of Pope Pius XII
 BENEDICT WILLIAMSON
 Story of Pope Pius XI
 LILLIAN BROWN-OLF
 Their Name Is Pius
 Sword of St. Michael

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 THEODORE MAYNARD
 The World I Saw
 ELIZABETH LAURA ADAMS
 Dark Symphony
 JOHN MOODY
 The Long Road Home
 DOROTHY FREMONT GRANT
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 LOUIS FRANCIS BUDENZ
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 FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES
 Along a Little Way
 KNUTE ROCKNE
 Autobiography
 S. and S. LAMPING
 Through Hundred Gates

ST. PETER CLAVER

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 Saint in the Slave Trade
 MABEL FARNUM
 Street of the Half Moon

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 Wings of Eagles
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 FRANK J. SHEED
 The Irish Way
 EDNA KENTON
 With Hearts Courageous
 DANIEL SARGENT
 Four Independents
 CLAUDE WILLIAMSON
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 Girl Who Ruled a Kingdom
 (Queen Jadwiga)
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 Difficult Star
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 L. KEPPEL
 Rose Philippine Duchesne
 CANON HELLEU
 Jeanne Jugan