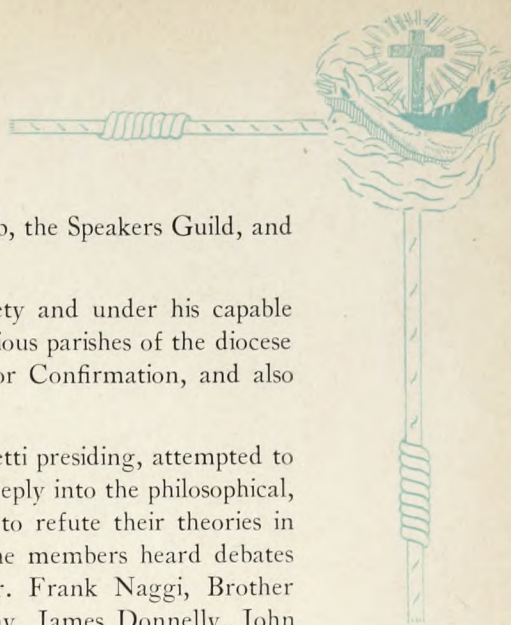


The Sodality of Our Lady of The Angels

WHEN Father Holland came to St. Francis College to teach religion and philosophy, he brought an energetic vitality, which generated a wave of enthusiasm for active participation in current Catholic affairs and was responsible for the founding of the Sodality of Our Lady of the Angels—the Religion Club. Practical action was the keynote, and soon St. Francis saw a growing Catholic Action group whose members began to take an increasingly vital part in Catholic activities. Protesting against the persecution of the Mexican Catholics by picketing the offices of the Mexican Consulate and organizing the first New York unit of the Legion of Decency, were among the very first works of the new club. It was their devotion to such work exemplifying their Catholic teaching that they soon won their place in the foremost ranks of Catholic collegians.

Due to the press of parish duties Father Holland retired from teaching at the college, but the enthusiasm that he enkindled did not die, for Father Sutherland, who succeeded him, carried on the work and developed the Religion Club to the present peak of success. The new officers, John McNamara, president; John Gorman, vice-president; and James Murphy, secretary and treasurer, proved to be a very progressive group and soon the Religion Club was functioning on a far greater scale than ever before.

Planning an organized campaign of Catholic Action, the officers gathered the members into four committees which would appeal to each one's particular tastes and



abilities. They were Our Lady's Committee, The Study Club, the Speakers Guild, and the Catechetical Society.

Edwin Kane became chairman of the Catechetical Society and under his capable supervision members of his committee were dispatched to various parishes of the diocese to help prepare children for their First Communion and for Confirmation, and also to aid the Arch-confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

The second committee, the Study Club, with Paul Ciangetti presiding, attempted to solve questions of current interest. Various speakers delved deeply into the philosophical, ethical, and economical tenets of Communism and sought to refute their theories in the light of Catholic teaching. In the course of the year the members heard debates and talks prepared by Rev. Thomas Conerty, D.D., Dr. Frank Naggi, Brother Christopher, James Murphy, Joseph Koch, Charles Murphy, James Donnelly, John Sheridan, Joseph Mahoney, and John McNamara.

H. O'Neill McTague succeeded Paul Bradley as the chairman of the Speakers Bureau, whose members attended Holy Name and other meetings to explain various aspects of Communism from the Catholic standpoint. Charles Murphy, John McNamara, James Donnelly, and John Berkery were among those who were especially active in this field.

Our Lady's Committee, under the direction of Charles Murphy, arranged devotions in the Chapel to suit the different seasons of the Liturgical year. The Rosary was recited daily to honor our Lady and to petition for the Poor Souls in Purgatory; on the First Friday the devotions gave honor to the Sacred Heart; during Lent the Stations of the Cross were given on Wednesdays and Fridays; and as a fitting termination of the year, devotions to Our Lady were celebrated before the campus shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Members of the Religion Club took an active part in inter-collegiate affairs during the past year. Delegates led by Charles Murphy attended the Catholic Press Conference; John McNamara and James Murphy accompanied the St. Francis delegation to the St. John's Peace Symposium as representatives; and Edwin Kane led a group which attended the Inter-racial Conference.

