

Sodality of Our Lady

"THE Sodality of Our Lady, an association founded by the Society of Jesus and approved by the Holy See, is a religious body which aims at fostering in its members an ardent devotion, reverence, and filial love towards the Blessed Virgin Mary, and through this devotion and with the help of so good a Mother, it seeks to make the faithful gathered under her name good Catholics, sincerely bent on sanctifying themselves, each in his state of life, and zealous, so far as their condition of life permits, to save and sanctify their neighbor, and to defend the Church of Jesus Christ against the attacks of the wicked." Thus the official Sodality rule describes the end and nature of the Sodality. Dedicated to the Blessed Mother under her title of Our Lady of the Angels, the Sodality of St. Francis College sought particularly during the past year to stress especially the fundamental purpose of the organization — the personal sanctification of its members — in preference to those wider, more appealing, but less basic forms of Catholic Action which presented themselves. From the initial meeting in September, when Father Sutherland as moderator urged the Sodalists to direct their zeal toward the improvement of those spiritual exercises already existing in the college, to the time of the Communion Breakfast at the end of the year, the program of the Sodality was a simple but intensive one to keep this aim foremost in the thoughts and activities of the members.

Prayer and devotions in the chapel formed the nucleus from which the various functions of the Sodality grew. Under the careful planning of Our Lady's Committee, with John O'Rourke as chairman, the Sodalists regularly gathered during the noon hour for prayer. Daily during October the Rosary and the Litany were recited in honor of the Blessed Mother; during November the prayers of the members were offered in behalf of the Poor Souls in Purgatory; in December there was enrollment in the Angelic Warfare of St. Thomas Aquinas by Father Vahey, O.P., and a triduum in preparation for the

At Any Noon Hour





*Upper: Sodality Officers Look Ahead.
Lower: Ready for Breakfast Speakers.*

feast of the Immaculate Conception; throughout the Season of Lent the Way of the Cross was conducted daily; and in May outdoor devotions in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes were held before the Grotto in the monastery garden. Each Friday during the year Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by one of the priests attached to the college faculty; and on the first Friday of the month prayers of reparation to the Sacred Heart were recited. On the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas the Sodality sponsored a devotional tribute to the Angelic Doctor with a special service conducted by the Dominican Fathers.

The secondary aim of the Sodality — the extension to others of the salutary influence of the members for the good of souls — was not entirely neglected, but it was never permitted to overshadow the fundamental reason for the existence of the Sodality. Chief among the activities in this regard was the work of the Catechetical Committee under the chairmanship of Robert Rausch. In the humble but essential labor of instructing public school children in the fundamentals of the Catholic faith and of preparing them for their First Communion and Confirmation, many Sodality members found an effective outlet for their charity. Others sought to do their share for the cause of Christ by becoming Promoters of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

In view of these accomplishments, the officers of the Sodality, Cornelius Condrón, president; Austin Murphy, vice-president; John Cronin, secretary; and Daniel Buckley, treasurer, feel that the activity of the past year has been an eloquent testimony of the true Catholic spirit in the hearts of St. Francis men.