

DEVELOPMENT OF PAX ROMANA IN LATIN AMERICA

It can be stated that for the last 10 years, in regards man-power and financial assistance, Latin America has received far more attention from the international organs of the movement than other continents. One must note at the same time that the results apparently are not what one could have expected.

(1) On the positive side, we have managed to establish federations in practically all Latin American countries, of which some have developed intensive programmes for their members. The impact, however, which the federations have been able to make so far in the University, is still far from satisfactory.

(2) It therefore is felt that we should approach the programing for our Latin American federations along new and different lines. The World Congress which is being planned for 1962 might offer the ideal opportunity for giving a new emphasis to our work in Latin America.

(3) What is needed first of all is the systematic organization of leadership courses on the local and national levels. Such courses have been held in the past, but there has not been any systematic approach which would lead to a situation in which one could get a set pattern which could be repeated. Now every time mistakes are made, they are repeated because one does not learn from preceeding courses. To achieve this, the Latin American assistant should visit if possible twice a year, the Latin American region, and instead of visiting a great many countries, during each visit should restrict his travel, but stay for a longer period in one or two countries where he could conduct such leadership courses. Also, Latin American grantees coming to Europe should attend these courses, held specially for Latin Americans, and which could give them the right approach to the situation of their own country. A seminar of this kind for Latin American students will be planned for 1961 in Fribourg.

(4) Concerning the regional meetings, a great many have taken place in the past years, but here again there was lacking a systematic method of carrying

them through, and a well-balanced choice of subjects to be discussed. It is suggested that in the future regional meetings should be coupled with work-camps, as is being done with such success in the Asian area. A regional meeting should therefore last at least from 3 to 4 weeks. The students would work during the day on a community development project, and in the evenings lectures and discussions would take place. In this way it is felt that the social responsibility of the student could be developed to a greater extent, and that students could be made aware of the possibility they have to take part in the national effort. It is felt that next year such a work-camp could be organized in Valdivia in Chile, where students could help in the reconstruction of the city. As an experiment Chile has the advantage that (1) it offers a concrete project in which students could help, (2) the Chilean federation is one of the most active ones and is quite capable of organizing the technical aspects, and (3) full support can be expected from the hierarchy.

(5) The problem with the grantees in the past has been that often they are people who hold executive positions in their federations, and who, after their travel tour, lose a great part of their effectiveness as they are finishing their studies, or about to finish them. It therefore is suggested that in future the choice of grantees should rest more exclusively with the secretariat in Fribourg, and that the Latin American assistant travelling through the continent should pick young potential student leaders who might be brought out.

(6) For the development of the University situation in Latin America it is of the greatest importance that more attention should be given to the organization of young graduate groups. These groups could have much greater influence on the developments in the countries, and if well-organized, could form the stable element, in contrast with the student groups, where the leaders change rapidly.

(7) In Latin America a general need is felt for more material about the nature of the student apostolate and a concrete aim for the work. It therefore

is urgent that some of the publications which have been edited in Fribourg by our secretariat, be brought up to date, translated into Spanish, and sent on a big scale to the Latin American area. Also the Ibero-American Bulletin could play a great part in this.
