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**Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”**  
**The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945**

**Series 2: “ You have nothing to fear but fear itself:”**  
**FDR and the New Deal**

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**File No. 654**

**1933 October 4**

**New York City, NY - National Conference**  
**Catholic Charities**

In the midst of ~~the most~~ problems of material things --- in the machine age of invention, of finance, of international suspicion and renewed armament --- every one of us must gain satisfaction and strength in the knowledge that social justice is becoming an ever-growing factor and influence in almost every part of the world. With every passing year I become more confident that humanity is moving forward to the practical application of the teachings of Christianity as they affect the individual lives of men and women.

*Paul* It is fitting that this annual National Conference of Catholic Charities should celebrate also the centennial of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I like to remember the taunt of atheists and enemies of the Christian religion in the Paris of 1833, when they demanded of the churches, "Show us your works".  
*Remember it because*  
I like to ~~think~~ of the acceptance of that challenge and the decision to show that Christianity was not dead, and that the deeds of Christians ~~will~~ were in accordance with their faith. ~~When I think that~~ this one Society, last year, in their task of visitation and relief of the poor in their own homes, in hospitals and institutions, aided about one hundred and fifty thousand families, ~~and~~ *W* With other great organisations of men and women connected with all the churches in all the land ~~are~~ *it is* working with similar unselfishness for the

alleviation of human suffering and the righting of human wrongs, <sup>Where I think of this</sup> I am confirmed  
in my deep belief that God is marching on.

Seven months ago this very day, standing at the portals of the Capitol at Washington, about to assume the responsibilities of the Presidency, I told the people of America that we were going to face facts, no matter how hard or difficult those facts might be, and that it was my firm belief that the only thing we had to fear was fear itself.

I believed then -- and I know now -- that our people would support action that sought the goal of giving every man his due. Leadership, I have tried to give; <sup>but</sup> <sup>outstanding</sup> the great fact has been the ~~XX~~ response -- the wholehearted response -- of America. We have recaptured and rekindled our pioneering spirit. We have insisted that it shall always be a spirit of justice, a spirit of teamwork, a spirit of sacrifice, and above all, a spirit of neighborliness.

We have sought to adjust the processes of industrial and agricultural life, and in so doing we have sought to view the picture as a whole. Revival of industry, redemption of agriculture, reconstruction of banking, development of public works, the lifting of crushing debt -- all these in every part of the Nation call for a willingness to sacrifice individual gains, to work together

for the public welfare and for the success of a broad national program of recovery. We have to have courage, and discipline, and vision to blaze the new trails in life;; but underlying all our efforts is the conviction that men cannot live unto themselves alone. A democracy must be bound together by the ties of neighborliness. T

<sup>my friends</sup>  
That tie has been the guiding spirit of your work for the sick, for children in need, and for the aged and friendless. And you who have participated in the actual day-to-day work of practical and useful charity understand well that no program of recovery can suddenly restore all our people to ~~BEHIN~~ self-support. This is the time when you and I know that though we have proceeded a portion of the way, the longer, harder part still lies ahead for us to redouble our efforts to care for those who must still depend upon relief, to prevent the disintegration of home life, and to stand by the victims of the depression until it is definitely past.

<sup>on</sup>  
The Federal Government has inaugurated new measures of relief ~~at~~ a vast scale, but the Federal Government cannot and does not intend to take over the whole job. Many times we have insisted that every community and every state must ~~be~~ the first ~~to~~ do their share.

Out of this picture we are working out a new science of social treatment and rehabilitation -- working it out through an unselfish partnership between the great <sup>all</sup> ~~church~~ and private <sup>and church</sup> social service agencies with the agencies of Government itself. From the point of view of the fixing of responsibilities, the prevention of overlapping and of waste and the coordination of efforts, we are making enormous strides with every passing day. But back of the cooperative leadership which is showing itself in every part of the Country, there are two other vital reasons for <sup>the</sup> ~~their~~ maintenance of the efforts of the churches and other non-governmental groups.

The first of these is that much as we strive for the broad ~~their~~ principles of social justice, the actual application of these principles is of necessity an individual thing, - a thing which touches individual lives and individual families. No governmental organization in all history has been able to keep the human touch to the same extent as church and private effort. Government can do many things better than private associations or citizens, but in the last analysis success depends on the personal contact between neighbor and neighbor.

The other reason lies in the fact that the people of the United States

still recognize, and, I believe, recognize with firmer faith than ever before,

that spiritual values count in the long run more than material values. Those

*in other words*

*^* who have sought by edict to eliminate the right of mankind to believe in God

and to practice that belief, have, in every case, discovered sooner or later

that they are tilting in vain against an inherent, essential, undying quality,

and indeed necessity, of the human race -- a quality and a necessity, <sup>very</sup> in fact,

which in every century have proved an essential to permanent progress.

Clear and

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going support throughout the whole Nation of efforts such as yours. The

spirit of our people has not been daunted. It has come through the trials of

these days unafraid. We have ventured and we have won; we shall venture

further and we shall win. The traditions of a great people have been enriched.

In our measures of recovery and of relief we have preserved all that is best

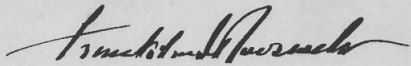
in our history and are building thereon a new structure -- strong and firm and

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I can never express in words what the loyalty~~IX~~ and trust of the Nation

has meant to me. Not for a moment have I doubted that we would climb out

of the valley of gloom. Always have I been certain that we would conquer,  
because the spirit of America springs from faith -- faith in the beloved  
institutions of our land, and a true and abiding faith in the divine guidance  
of God.



*Original reading copy*

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE CONFERENCE DINNER  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
GRAND BALLROOM, WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL  
October 4, 1933

Cardinal Hayes, Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen:

Coming down through the crowd this evening, my old friend, Monsignor Keegan, paid me the nicest compliment I have had since the fourth of March because he said, "Remember, way back before the fourth of March, when you said you would come to this dinner in October? And now you have come."

In the midst of problems of material things -- in the machine age of invention and of finance, and of international suspicion and renewed armaments -- I think that every one of us must gain satisfaction and a strength in the knowledge that social justice is becoming an ever-growing factor and influence in almost every part of the world today. With every passing year I become more confident that humanity is moving forward to the practical application of the teachings of Christianity as they affect the individual lives of men and women everywhere.

I think it is fitting that this annual National Conference of Catholic Charities should celebrate also, at the same time, the centennial of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I like to remember the day a hundred years ago, the taunt of atheists, the taunt of (and) the enemies of the Christian religion in the Paris of 1833, when they demanded of the churches, "Show us your works." Yes, I like to remember it because of the



Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC  
GRAND BAILIOWS, WASHINGTON  
October 11, 1933

Cardinal Hayes, Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen:

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statists, the saint of (and) the enemies of the Christian religion

in the Paris of 1833, when they demanded of the churches, "Show

us your work." Yes, I like to remember it because of the

acceptance of that challenge and the decision to show that Christianity was not dead, and that the deeds of Christians were in accordance with their faith. This one Society, this past year, in their task of visitation and relief of the poor in their own homes and in hospitals and institutions, aided more than one hundred and fifty thousand families within the borders of our country; and, with other great organizations of men and women connected with all the churches in all the land, it is working with similar unselfishness for the alleviation of human suffering and the righting of human wrong. When I think of this I am confirmed in my deep belief that God is marching on.

Monsignor Keegan has mentioned the fact that seven months ago this very day, standing at the portals of the Capitol at Washington, about to assume the responsibilities of the Presidency, I told the people of America that we were going to face facts, no matter how hard and how difficult those facts might be, and that it was my firm belief that the only thing we had to fear was fear itself.

I believed then -- and I know now -- that our people would support definite action that sought the goal of giving every man his due. Leadership, I have tried to give, but the great and the outstanding fact, my friends, has been the response -- the wholehearted response -- of America. As we have recaptured and rekindled our pioneering spirit. We have insisted that it shall always be a spirit of justice, a spirit

of teamwork, a spirit of sacrifice, and, above all, a spirit of neighborliness.

We have sought to adjust the processes of industrial and agricultural life, and in so doing we have sought to view the picture as a whole. Revival of industry, redemption of agriculture, reconstruction of banking, development of public works, the lifting of crushing debt -- all these in every part of the Nation call for a willingness to sacrifice individual gains, to work together for the public welfare and for the success of a broad national program of recovery. We have to have courage and discipline and vision to blaze the new trails in life; but underlying all our efforts is the conviction that men cannot live unto themselves alone. A democracy, the right kind of a democracy, is bound together by the ties of neighborliness.

That tie, my friends, has been the guiding spirit of your work for the sick, your work for the children in need, and for the aged and friendless. And you who have participated in the actual day-to-day work of practical and useful charity understand well that no program of recovery can suddenly restore all our people to self-support. This is the time when you and I know that though we have proceeded a portion of the way, the longer, harder part still lies ahead; to redouble our efforts to care for those who must still depend upon relief, to prevent the disintegration of home life, and to stand by the victims of the depression until it is definitely past.

The Federal Government has inaugurated new measures of relief on a vast scale, but the Federal Government cannot, and does not intend to, take over the whole job. Many times we have insisted that every community and every state must first do their share.

Out of this picture we are developing a new science of social treatment and rehabilitation -- working it out through an unselfish partnership, a partnership between great church and private social service agencies with the agencies of Government itself. From the point of view of fixing responsibilities, the prevention of overlapping, the prevention of waste, and the co-ordination of effort, we are, all of us, making enormous strides with every passing day. But back of that cooperative leadership that is showing itself so splendidly in every part of the country, there are two other vital reasons for the maintenance of the efforts of the churches in every part of the land (and other non-Governmental groups).

The first of these is that much as you and I strive for the broad principles of social justice, the actual application of these principles is of necessity an individual thing, - a thing that touches individual lives and individual families. No governmental organization in all history has been able to keep the human touch to the same extent as church effort and private effort. Government can do a great many things better than private associations or citizens, but in the last analysis success of this kind of work in which you are engaged (in personal matters) depends

on the personal contact between neighbor and neighbor.

I think that the other reason lies in the fact that the people of the United States still recognize, and, I believe, recognize with a firmer faith than ever before, that spiritual values count in the long run more than material values. Those people in other lands, and I say this advisedly, those in other lands who have sought by edict or by law to eliminate the right of mankind to believe in God and to practice that belief, have, in every known case, discovered sooner or later that they are tilting in vain against an inherent, essential, undying quality, indeed necessity, of the human race -- a quality and a necessity in very fact which in every century have proved an essential to permanent progress, and I speak of religion. (Applause)

Clear thinking and earnest effort and sincere faith will result in thorough-going support throughout the whole Nation of efforts such as yours. The spirit of our people has not been blunted, it has not been daunted. It has come through the trials of these days unafraid. We have ventured and we have won; we shall venture further and we shall win again. Yes, the traditions of a great people have been enriched. In our measures of recovery and of relief we have preserved all that is best in our history and we are building thereon a new structure -- strong and firm and permanent.

I can never express in words what the loyalty and trust of the Nation have meant to me. Not for a moment have I doubted that we would climb out of the valley of gloom. Always I have

been certain that we would conquer, because the spirit of America springs from faith -- faith in the beloved institutions of our land, and a true and abiding faith in the divine guidance of God. (Prolonged applause)

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT BEFORE THE CONFERENCE  
DINNER NINETEENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES

October 4, 1933

In the midst of problems of material things -- in the machine age of invention, of finance, of international suspicion and renewed armament -- every one of us must gain satisfaction and strength in the knowledge that social justice is becoming an evergrowing factor and influence in almost every part of the world. With every passing year I become more confident that humanity is moving forward to the practical application of the teachings of Christianity as they affect the individual lives of men and women.

It is fitting that this annual National Conference of Catholic Charities should celebrate also the centennial of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I like to remember the taunt of atheists and enemies of the Christian religion in the Paris of 1833, when they demanded of the churches, "Show us your works." I like to think of the acceptance of that challenge and the decision to show that Christianity was not dead, and that the deeds of Christians were in accordance with their faith. When I realize that this one Society, last year, in their task of visitation and relief of the poor in their own homes, in hospitals and institutions, aided more than one hundred and fifth thousand families; and that other great organizations of men and women connected with all the churches in all the land are working with similar unselfishness for the alleviation of human suffering and the righting of human wrong, I am confirmed in my deep belief that God is marching on.

Seven months ago this very day, standing at the portals of the Capitol at Washington, about to assume the responsibilities of the Presidency, I told the people of America that we were going to face facts, no matter how hard or difficult those facts might be, and that it was my firm belief that the only thing we had to fear was fear itself.

I believed then -- and I know now -- that our people would support definite action that sought the goal of giving every man his due. Leadership, I have tried to give; but the great and most important fact has been the response -- the wholehearted response -- of America. We have recaptured and rekindled our pioneering spirit. We have insisted that this shall always be a spirit of justice, a spirit of teamwork, a spirit of sacrifice, and, above all, a spirit of neighborliness.

We have sought to adjust the processes of industrial and agricultural life, and in so doing we have sought to view the picture as a whole. Revival of industry, redemption of agriculture, reconstruction of banking, development of public works, the lifting of crushing debt -- all these in every part of the Nation call for a willingness to sacrifice individual gains, to work together for the public welfare and for the success of a broad national program of recovery. We have to have courage and discipline and vision to blaze the new trails in life; but underlying all our efforts is the conviction that men cannot live unto themselves alone. A democracy must be bound together by the ties of neighborliness.

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Out of this picture we are developing a new science of social treatment and rehabilitation -- working it out through an unselfish partnership between all church and private social service agencies with the agencies of Government itself. From the point of view of the fixing of responsibilities, the prevention of overlapping and of waste, and the coordination of efforts, we are making enormous strides with every passing day. But back of the cooperative leadership which is showing itself in every part of the Country, there are two other vital reasons for the maintenance of the efforts of the churches and other non-governmental groups.

The first of these is that much as we strive for the broad principles of social justice, the actual application of these principles is of necessity an individual thing, - a thing which touches individual lives and individual families. No governmental organization in all history has been able to keep the human touch to the same extent as church and private effort. Government can do many things better than private associations or citizens, but in the last analysis success in personal matters depends on the personal contact between neighbor and neighbor.

The other reason lies in the fact that the people of the United States still recognize, and, I believe, recognize with firmer faith than ever before, that spiritual values count in the long run more than material values. Those who have sought by edict to eliminate the right of mankind to believe in God and to practice that belief, have, in every case, discovered sooner or later that they are tilting in vain against an inherent, essential, undying quality, and indeed necessity, of the human race - a quality and a necessity which in every century have proved an essential to permanent progress.

Clear thinking and earnest effort and sincere faith will result in thoroughgoing support throughout the whole Nation for efforts such as yours. The spirit of our people has not been daunted. It has come through the trials of those days unafraid. We have ventured and we have won; we shall venture further and we shall win. The traditions of a great people have been enriched. In our measure of recovery and of relief we have preserved all that is best in our history and are building thereon a new structure -- strong and firm and permanent.

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT BEFORE THE CONFERENCE  
DINNER NINETEENTH MEETING NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES

October 4, 1933

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STATEMENTS FILE

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE CONFERENCE DINNER  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
GRAND BALLROOM, WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL  
October 4, 1933

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That tie, my friends, has been the guiding spirit of your work for the sick, your work for the children in need, and for the aged and friendless. And you who have participated in

the actual day-to-day work of practical and useful charity understand well that no program of recovery can suddenly restore all our people to self-support. This is the time when you and I know that though we have proceeded a portion of the way, the longer, harder part still lies ahead; to redouble our efforts to care for those who must still depend upon relief, to prevent the disintegration of home life, and to stand by the victims of the depression until it is definitely past.

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itself so splendidly in every part of the country, there are two other vital reasons for the maintenance of the efforts of the churches in every part of the land. *(this was somewhat grouped.)*

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believe in God and to practice that belief, have, in every known case, discovered sooner or later that they are tilting in vain against an inherent, essential, undying quality, indeed necessity, of the human race -- a quality and a necessity in very fact which in every century have proved an essential to permanent progress, and I speak of religion.

(Applause) Clear thinking and earnest effort and sincere faith will result in thorough-going support throughout the whole Nation of efforts such as yours. The spirit of our people has not been blunted, it has not been daunted. It has come through the trials of these days unafraid. We have ventured and we have won; we shall venture further and we shall win again. Yes, the traditions of a great people have been enriched. In our measures of recovery and of relief we have preserved all that is best in our history and we are building thereon a new structure -- strong and firm and permanent.

I can never express in words what the loyalty and trust of the Nation have meant to me. Not for a moment have I doubted that we would climb out of the valley of gloom. Always I have been certain that we would conquer, because the spirit of America springs from faith -- faith in the beloved



institutions of our land, and a true and abiding faith in  
the divine guidance of God. (*Prolonged applause*)

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## PRESS TELEGRAM

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In the midst of problems of material things  
--- in the machine age of invention, of finance,  
of international suspicion and renewed armament  
--- every one of us must gain satisfaction and strength in the knowledge that social justice is becoming an ever-growing factor and influence in almost every part of the world. With every passing year I become more confident that humanity is moving forward to the practical application of the teachings of Christianity as they affect the individual lives of men and women. ✓

It is fitting that this annual National Conference of Catholic Charities should celebrate also the centennial of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I like to remember the taunt of atheists and enemies of the Christian religion in the Paris 1833, when they demanded of the churches, "Show us your works." I like to think of the acceptance of that challenge and

the decision to show that Christianity was not dead,  
and that the deeds of Christians were in accordance  
with their faith. <sup>6/2/65</sup> ~~When I realize that this one~~  
~~society, last year,~~ in their task of visitation and  
relief of the poor in their own homes, in hospitals  
and institutions, <sup>6/2/65</sup> ~~aided more than~~ one hundred and  
fifty thousand families; <sup>(1.5)</sup> ~~and that~~ other great  
organizations of men and women connected with all  
the churches in all the land <sup>b</sup> ~~are~~ working with similar  
unselfishness for the alleviation of human suffering  
and the righting of human wrong, <sup>7/6</sup> I am confirmed in my  
deep belief that God is marching on.

*see - 7/6 -* ~~Seven months ago this very day,~~ standing at the  
portals of the Capitol at Washington, about to assume  
the responsibilities of the Presidency, I told the  
people of America that we were going to face facts, no  
matter how hard <sup>or</sup> ~~or~~ difficult those facts might be, and  
that it was my firm belief that the only thing we had to  
fear was fear itself.

I believed then -- and I know now --- that our  
people would support definite action that sought the

goal of giving every man his due. Leadership, I have tried to give; but the great <sup>and</sup> most important fact has been the response -- the wholehearted response -- of America. We have recaptured and rekindled our pioneering spirit. We have insisted that ~~this~~ shall always be a spirit of justice, a spirit of teamwork, a spirit of sacrifice, and, above all, a spirit of neighborliness.

We have sought to adjust the processes of industrial and agricultural life, and in so doing we have sought to view the picture as a whole. Revival of industry, redemption of agriculture, reconstruction of banking, development of public works, the lifting of crushing debt -- all these in every part of the Nation call for a willingness to sacrifice individual gains, to work together for the public welfare and for the success of a broad national program of recovery. We have to have courage and discipline and vision to blaze the new trails in life; but underlying all our efforts is the conviction that men cannot live unto

themselves alone. A democracy <sup>1-10</sup> ~~must be bound to-~~  
 gother by the ties of neighborliness.

That tie <sup>9</sup> has been the guiding spirit of your  
 work for the sick, <sup>1</sup> for the children in need, and for  
 the aged and friendless. And you who have participated  
 in the actual day-to-day work of practical and useful  
 charity understand well that no program of recovery  
 can suddenly restore all our people to self-support.  
 This is the time when you and I know that though we  
 have proceeded a portion of the way, the longer, harder  
 part still lies ahead; ~~and that it is for us~~ to redouble  
 our efforts to care for those who must still depend  
 upon relief, to prevent the disintegration of home life,  
 and to stand by the victims of the depression until  
 it is definitely past.

The Federal Government <sup>1</sup> has inaugurated new measures  
 of relief on a vast scale, but the Federal Government  
 cannot, and does not intend, to take over the whole  
 job. Many times <sup>we</sup> I have insisted that every community  
 and every state must first do their share.

Out of this picture we are ~~developing~~ <sup>developing</sup> a new science of social treatment and rehabilitation -- working it out through an unselfish partnership, <sup>e</sup> between ~~all~~ church and private social service agencies with the agencies of Government itself. From the point of view of ~~the fixing of~~ responsibilities, the prevention of overlapping <sup>and</sup> of waste, and the coordination of efforts, we are <sup>making</sup> enormous strides with every passing day. But back of the cooperative leadership <sup>which</sup> is showing itself in every part of the Country, there are two other vital reasons for the maintenance of the efforts of the churches and ~~other non-governmental groups~~.

The first of these is that much as <sup>we</sup> strive for the broad principles of social justice, the actual application of these principles is of necessity an individual thing, - a thing <sup>which</sup> touches individual lives and individual families. <sup>No</sup> governmental organization in all history has been able to keep the human touch to the same extent as church and private

*effort*

effort. Government can do many things better than private associations or citizens, but in the last analysis success in ~~personal matters~~ depends on the personal contact between neighbor and neighbor.

The other reason lies in the fact that the people of the United States still recognize, and, I believe, recognize with firmer faith than ever before, that spiritual values count in the long run more than material values. Those who have sought by edict to eliminate the right of mankind to believe in God and to practice that belief, have, in every case, discovered sooner or later that they are tilting in vain against an inherent, essential, undying quality, and indeed necessity, of the human race -- a quality and a necessity which in every century have proved an essential to permanent progress.

Clear thinking and earnest effort and sincere faith will result in thorough-going support throughout the whole Nation for efforts such as yours. The spirit of our people has not been daunted. It has come through



the trials of these days unafraid. We have ventured and we have won; we shall venture further and we shall win. <sup>the</sup> The traditions of a great people have been enriched. In our measures of recovery and of relief we have preserved all that is best in our history and <sup>are</sup> are building thereon a new structure -- strong and firm and permanent.

I can never express in words what the loyalty and trust of the Nation <sup>have</sup> ~~has~~ meant to me. Not for a moment have I doubted that we would climb out of the valley of gloom. Always ~~have~~ <sup>have</sup> I been certain that we would conquer, because the spirit of America springs from faith -- faith in the beloved institutions of our land, and a true and abiding faith in the divine guidance of God. (S.V.) 1/11

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SEATING ARRANGEMENT HEAD TABLE, CONFERENCE DINNER  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES,  
GRAND BALL ROOM, WALDORF-ASTORIA, OCTOBER 4, 1933.

(Reading Left to Right:)

~~MRS~~ THOMAS FARRELL, MRS. SCHAIN, BISHOP JAMES A. RYAN, CATHOLIC  
UNIVERSITY, MONSG. MICHAEL J. LAVELLE, RECTOR OF ST. PATRICK CATHEDRAL, N.Y.;  
MRS. NICHOLAS F. BRADY, ARCH. BISHOP J.J. MITTY, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.  
MAYOR JOHN F. O'BRIEN, ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS J. L. BECKMAN, of IOWA, MRS.  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, PATRICK CARDINAL HAYES, THE PRESIDENT, THE  
APOSTOLIC DELEGATE ARCHBISHOP AMLETO GIOVANNI CICOGNANI; LIEUT.-GOV. W. WILLIAM  
BRAY OF NEW YORK, MONSG. R. MARCELLUS WAGNER, PRESIDENT ELECT OF THE NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES, POSTMASTER GENERAL JAMES A. FARLEY, MONSG.  
X ROBERT F. KEEGAN, RETIRING PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES, MARVIN MCINTYRE, SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT, MISS ~~XX~~ TERESA &  
O'DONOHUE, PRESIDENT OF CATHOLIC GIRLS CLUBS, ALFRED E. SMITH, ~~XXXXXX~~  
BISHOP JOHN B. MORRIS, LITTLE ROCK, ARK.; GEORGE ~~XX~~ MACDONALD and/ <sup>VERY</sup> REV. DR.  
WILLIAM J. KERBY, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D.C.

# # # #

P.P.F.  
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## Catholic Charities Speech - 10/4/33

In the midst of ~~the world~~ problems of material things --- in the machine age of invention, of finance, of international suspicion and renewed armament --- every one of us must gain satisfaction and strength in the knowledge that social justice is becoming an ever-growing factor and influence in almost every part of the world. With every passing year I become more confident that humanity is moving forward to the practical application of the teachings of Christianity as they affect the individual lives of men and women.

It is fitting that this annual National Conference of Catholic Charities should celebrate also the centennial of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I like to remember the taunt of atheists and enemies of the Christian religion in the Paris of 1835, when they demanded of the churches, "Show us your works". I like to think of the acceptance of that challenge and the decision to show that Christianity was not dead, and that the deeds of Christians ~~WERE~~ were in accordance with their faith. When I <sup>realize</sup> ~~think~~ that this one Society, last year, in their task of visitation and relief of the poor in their own homes, in hospitals and institutions, aided <sup>more than</sup> ~~about~~ one hundred and fifty thousand families; and <sup>that</sup> ~~which~~ other great organizations of men and women connected with all the churches in all the land are working with similar unselfishness for the

alleviation of human suffering and the righting of human wrongs, I am confirmed in my deep belief that God is marching on.

Seven months ago this very day, standing at the portals of the Capitol at Washington, about to assume the responsibilities of the Presidency, I told the people of America that we were going to face facts, no matter how hard or difficult those facts might be, and that it was my firm belief that the only thing we had to fear was fear itself.

I believed then -- and I know now--- that our people would <sup>definite</sup> support action that sought the goal of giving every man his due. Leadership, I have tried to give; <sup>but</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>and most important</sup> the great fact has been the ~~XXX~~ response -- the wholehearted response -- of America. We have recaptured and rekindled our pioneering spirit. We have insisted that <sup>there</sup> ~~it~~ shall always be a spirit of justice, a spirit of teamwork, a spirit of sacrifice, and above all, a spirit of neighborliness.

We have sought to adjust the processes of industrial and agricultural life, and in so doing we have sought to view the picture as a whole. Revival of industry, redemption of agriculture, reconstruction of banking, development of public works, the lifting of crushing debt -- all these in every part of the Nation call for a willingness to sacrifice individual gains, to work together

for the public welfare and for the success of a broad national program of recovery. We have to have courage and discipline and vision to blaze the new trails in life; but underlying all our efforts is the conviction that men cannot live unto themselves alone. A democracy must be bound together by the ties of neighborliness.

That tie has been the guiding spirit of your work for the sick, for *the* children in need, and for the aged and friendless. And you who have participated in the actual day-to-day work of practical and useful charity understand well that no program of recovery can suddenly restore all our people to ~~their~~ self-support. This is the time when you and I know that though we have proceeded a portion of the way, the longer, harder part still lies ahead; *and that it is* for us to redouble our efforts to care for those who must still depend upon relief, to prevent the disintegration of home life, and to stand by the victims of the depression until it is definitely past.

The Federal Government has inaugurated new measures of relief <sup>on</sup> ~~at~~ a vast scale, but the Federal Government cannot, and does not intend, to take over the whole job. Many times ~~we~~ <sup>3</sup> have insisted that every community and every state must ~~be the~~ first ~~to~~ do their share.

*Developing*  
Out of this picture we are ~~working out~~ a new science of social treatment and rehabilitation -- working it out through an unselfish partnership between the <sup>all</sup> ~~great~~ church and private social service agencies with the agencies of Government itself. From the point of view of the fixing of responsibilities, the prevention of overlapping and of waste, and the coordination of efforts, we are making enormous strides with every passing day. But back of the cooperative leadership which is showing itself in every part of the Country, there are two other vital reasons for ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> maintenance of the efforts of the churches and other non-governmental groups.

The first of these is that much as we strive for the broad ~~xxx~~ principles of social justice, the actual application of these principles is of necessity an individual thing, - a thing which touches individual lives and individual families. No governmental organization in all history has been able to keep the human touch to the same extent as church and private effort. Government can do many things better than private associations or citizens, but in the last analysis <sup>in personal matters</sup> success depends on the personal contact between neighbor and neighbor.

The other reason lies in the fact that the people of the United States

still recognize, and, I believe, recognize with firmer faith than ever before, that spiritual values count in the long run more than material values. Those who have sought by edict to eliminate the right of mankind to believe in God and to practice that belief, have, in every case, discovered sooner or later that they are tilting in vain against an inherent, essential, undying quality, and indeed necessity, of the human race -- a quality and a necessity ~~in fact~~ which in every century have proved an essential to permanent progress.

Clear and  
~~IX~~ thinking ~~IX~~ earnest effort and sincere faith will result in thorough-going support throughout the whole Nation <sup>for</sup> ~~of~~ efforts such as yours. The spirit of our people has not been daunted. It has come through the trials of these days unafraid. We have ventured and we have won; we shall venture further and we shall win. The traditions of a great people have been enriched. In our measures of recovery and of relief we have preserved all that is best in our history and are building thereon a new structure -- strong and firm and permanent.

I can never express in words what the loyalty ~~IX~~ and trust of the Nation <sup>has</sup> meant to me. Not for a moment have I doubted that we would climb out

of the valley of gloom. Always have I been certain that we would conquer,  
because the spirit of America springs from faith -- faith in the beloved  
institutions of our land, and a true and abiding faith in the divine guidance  
of God.

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of 1904.

Investigation of the fact that a large number of the people in the United States

believe in the existence of a God, and that many of them are not

in the habit of attending church, and that many of them are not

*Secretary*