

# Catholic Digest

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THE WORLD IN WELL-CHOSEN WORDS

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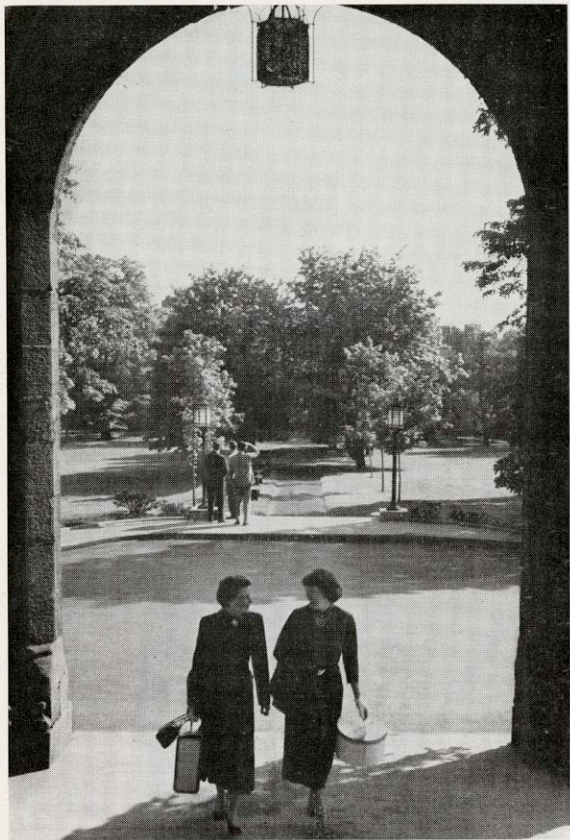
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# Principle Conquers Prejudice

## *A Picture Story*

**H**ere is the entrance to the main building of Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, where principle conquers prejudice every day. Its beautiful 18½-acre campus is right in the heart of New York City now, but when Manhattanville started a century ago it was several hours' carriage ride out in the country. Manhattanville's 400 girl students come to New York, cultural capital of the world, from 20 states and 21 countries. They form a miniature world community there, and learn cooperation the most natural way, by living it.







Girls from all over the world are in the senior politics class. In the first row Kay Cooley of Missouri sits next to Masako Saito, daughter of a former Japanese ambassador to the U.S. Sally Stebbins of Massachusetts shares the second row with Cecilia Yulo from the Philippines, Milagros Sobrino of Puerto Rico, and Silvia Guerrero of Mexico. Behind them sit Anne Raick of Belgium and Rosemary Dewey of Illinois.



**Ki** Soo Hoo is an excellent example of the kind of student Manhattanville attracts. In her native Korea, she was a radio announcer. Here she poses for a Manhattanville art class. She has on a traditional Korean court costume, which she is going to wear at the international dance festival. Manhattanville's girls can stage a great variety of dances, Polish mazurkas, Spanish tangos, Japanese cherry-blossom dances, Hindu dances, and Virginia reels. The girls wear native costumes, too, that they have brought from their own lands.



In Manhattanville's tiny post office Catherine Thellusson and Frances Sanderson share June Mulvaney's letter. June was the first Manhattanville student to complete a major in Russian. Negroes live at Manhattanville because both Negroes and whites recognize each other as children of God. Ten years ago, when Mother Grace Damman, then president, proposed that Negroes be admitted to the college, many alumnae protested. Mother Grace answered her critics in a famous speech, "Principles versus Prejudices."



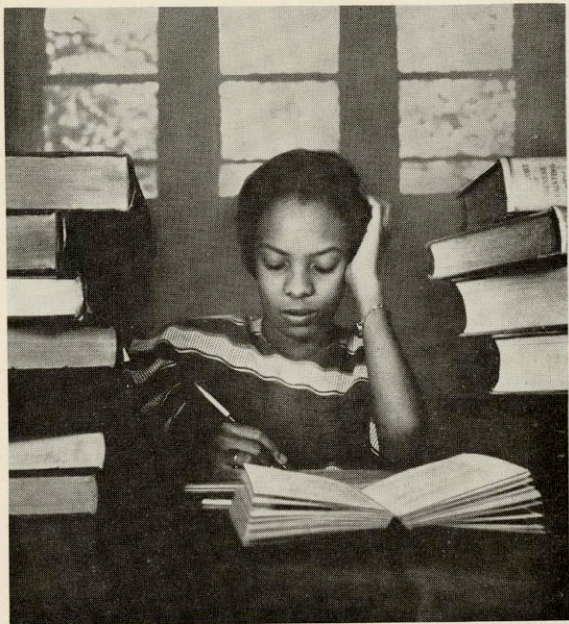


Manhattanville's students supported their president. A poll was taken, and 80% of the student body voted in favor of Mother Damman's action. Here Mother Eleanor O'Byrne, who has been president since Mother Damman's death in 1945, talks with officers of the Commission on Interracial Justice. This group combats prejudice on campus, and with units of the commission in other colleges, establishes special scholarships for Negroes. All the groups meet yearly to exchange experiences and form joint plans of action.

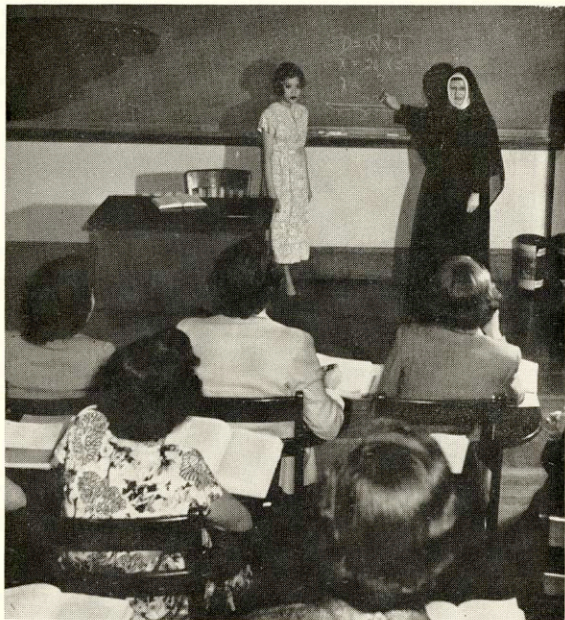


In the art studio, Professor Todd and Mrs. Stanislaw Kurecka supervise students working on inter-racial posters. The Interracial Commission sponsors contests every year. Students all over the country send in posters, short stories, and poems to combat prejudice. "Virtue has no color," "Beauty in contrast" are some of the popular slogans. Manhattanville's students have worked hard to make themselves a Christian family of which it could be said, "See how they love one another."





Now Negroes like Yvonne Skeffrey of Jamaica can get a first-class Catholic education at one of the best schools in the country. When they were admitted, some persons objected that Manhattanville was founded for the education of the upper classes. Mother Damman replied that the Negro as well as the white has an upper class of refinement and culture which needs the advantages of a Catholic education. When Cardinal Hayes heard of Mother Damman's decision, he said, "This will please the Holy Father."



**M**other Florence Weston, dean of Manhattanville, teaches one of her classes. She belongs to the Religious of the Sacred Heart. This Order was founded by St. Madeleine Sophie Barat for the religious education of the children of the influential classes. Though the Order is not yet 150 years old, it conducts schools and colleges on all the continents of the world. The special aim of the educational system of the Religious of the Sacred Heart is to inspire in their students a love of principles applied to action.



**R**ose Sun of China relaxes in the foyer of the Senior residence. She is an English major, and she has been chosen to be president of the Dramatic club for 1949-50. Behind her is the picture *Mater Admirabilis*. It was painted 100 years ago by a Religious of the Sacred Heart in Rome, where its shrine has been the scene of many miracles. It is a picture of our Lady as a young girl in the Temple. Copies of *Mater Admirabilis* are in every house of the Sacred Heart. Rose Sun first saw it in Tokyo, where her father was a diplomat.





**Dr. Cecil Haggerty** watches **Ann Graham** of Tyrone, Pa., **Anne Crossley** of Binghamton, N. Y., and **Ligia O'Brien** of Venezuela perform an experiment in chemistry called titration. The girls are trying to find out the strength of the chemical solution in the beaker underneath the long glass tube. Girls may major in either chemistry, physics, or biology, or they may take the pre-medical program which combines all these subjects. When they finish they have a real appreciation of God's omnipotence.



**Pryamvada Patel** of India shows her fellow students a dance from her native land. Pryam is specializing in social studies. Before she came to Manhattanville she studied for a while at the Sacred Heart college in Bombay. When she graduates she will go to Columbia university for advanced study. Then she will return to India to take an active part in national affairs. India needs women like her; and so does the world. Supplying the Catholic education of the leaders of tomorrow is Manhattanville's reason for existence.



**Joselyn Bailey and Teruko Ugaya work out a little composition of their own on the grand piano in the Blue room. Music is an important part of Manhattanville's curriculum. Music classes at the college are conducted partly by the faculty of the Pius X School of Liturgical Music, an internationally known school of ecclesiastical music, founded in 1916 by Mother Georgia Stevens. More than ten years before Manhattanville began its program for Negro students, Negroes were working and lecturing at Pius X school.**





In front of Manhattanville's main building, parents chat with their daughters. It is the annual Parents' day. Parents come from all parts of the country to meet their daughters' teachers and friends. Special entertainments are planned. This year, the college arranged miniature lectures, so that parents could see their daughters' professors in action. Angela Cave lectured on "The Art of the Detective Story," and Dr. Dan Walsh lectured on Thomas Merton's *Seven Storey Mountain*, in which he figures.



All is not classwork at Manhattanville; everyone must take part in a program of physical education. The college has a large swimming pool where the Aquatic club holds its Aquacade every year. The campus also has bowling alleys, and basketball and tennis courts. These girls are playing lacrosse, the game Manhattanville girls like best, even though it is very fast and very rough. It is an old Indian game, played something like hockey, except that the ball is thrown through the air with the long netted sticks.



Nilda Jiminez of Puerto Rico and Marion Rose Peters of New Jersey rest near a statue of St. Joseph. St. Joseph is the patron of the "Husband Hunters' club," an institution that has been flourishing for a long time on the Manhattanville campus. Marriage is the normal vocation of women, and Manhattanville students want to be no exception. Manhattanville feels that it is preparing its students well for whatever state of life they choose, but the girls want St. Joseph to help, too. If they choose marriage, they've got to have a man.





The real center of Manhattanville is the chapel. Daily Mass, religious instruction, religious guidance are all part of the girls' normal college life. Religion here is in its rightful place of first importance, and it is a religion that flows over into life. Every student in the college takes part in some kind of Catholic Action: catechism teaching, Girl Scout guidance, settlement work. This is training for similar action by students when they return to their own communities, for Manhattanville trains leaders.