

some dozen or 15 people. Since then, I have watched them grow steadily from year to year and this growth has been a source of encouragement and satisfaction to me.

The idea for today's student leadership breakfast actually began last spring and the first breakfast was held at Carvel Hall in Annapolis on April 25th, with approximately 140 student leaders attending. The purpose behind the breakfast is to foster a firmer grasp of moral and spiritual values among all Americans but particularly among students. It is our hope that the idea for student leadership breakfasts will eventually extend to every campus and that groups will be formed to help fellow students meet and solve the moral and spiritual problems that arise.

In today's world, a great deal of emphasis is placed on creating a healthy environment so that our children may grow strong and free from the ravages of disease and malnutrition. We expend vast amounts of our diplomatic and financial resources in attempting to secure an atmosphere free from contamination and water safe from pollution. And while it is right and proper that we should endeavor to create a happy and healthy physical environment, we should also take care to attend to spiritual and moral needs. I fear that, too often, modern society like the picture of Dorian Gray, presents a beautiful facade for public display but beneath the veneer, it is being attacked by unhealthy decay. It is for the purpose of rekindling the interest of many of our people, particularly our young people, in preserving and building upon the heritage of spiritual and moral values that have been bequeathed us by our forefathers, that these student leadership breakfasts are being held. Whatever measure of success we achieve will be reflected not only in our own lives but in the lives of those around us and in the activities of business and government.

Frequently, in discussions with various religious groups both within and without Maryland, I have commented on the significant influence that moral and religious beliefs have had on the development of America. Moral and spiritual beliefs have always formed the foundation for our vibrant society and they must be kept free from debasement if this nation is to continue to function as the citadel of freedom in a turbulent world. This is the goal we seek and it is my hope that you will carry back to your respective campuses the idea of either inaugurating or continuing student leadership breakfasts.

Many things have been said and written about prayer, of course, but I recall especially this saying from the Russian novelist, Dostoyevsky: "Be not forgetful of prayer," he cautioned, "every time you pray, if