

Even as I am pleased to be here, I am more pleased to see so many of the Greek Orthodox Church's young leaders here tonight. In an era when America's youth is characterized as being long on hair but lean on faith, it is reassuring to see so many determined to make their faith a vital force. With so much attention focused upon a minority of alienated young people, it is gratifying to realize that involved youth remain the majority. With all the notoriety given to those "dropping out" of society, we can solemnly thank God that many more are equally dedicated to changing society by "dropping in."

You are to be commended for your concern and for your common sense. "Dropping out" doesn't prove a thing; it's a futile form of protest. The "Mainstream" of American society still moves on, its course ever guided by the so-called "Establishment" — the civic, economic and political power structure. The "Mainstream" and the "Establishment" will always exist within any society. They are known and necessary quantities. The only variable is quality and this depends on who is in the "Mainstream" and whom the "Mainstream" allows or elects or tolerates to be its leaders in the "Establishment." Therefore, to change society, one must literally get in the swim. Meaningful change can only come from within the "Mainstream" and within the "Establishment." Nothing can be gained from without.

As the Greek Orthodox Youth of America, perhaps more than any other Church-oriented youth group, you have before you a constant example of the power of faith to change the world. I am speaking of this group's patron saint, Saint Paul. A person who changed the course of continents was Saint Paul, whose fierce personal faith converted nations.

The theme of this Conference is "Go Forth," a truly Pauline spirit. If ever there was a time for our nation to go forth; if ever there was a need for an army of apostles armed with the faith and fortitude of Saint Paul — the time and the need are now.

Today our nation faces a genuine moral crisis. And while this is primarily a concern of United States citizens, the other great democracies of North America are involved more deeply than they may realize — for what we face today may challenge them tomorrow.

Great nations collapse only when their foundations decay. Today the footings of America are rotting while most of us stand fretfully by, watching with morbid curiosity. The disease of our times is an