

Campus Ministry in a Wider Context
CCMA *Crossroads*, January 2003

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At this year's CCMA convention in Orlando we were reminded of the wider context in which campus ministry must operate today. Fr. Manuel Fernandez, SDB, of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerants, addressed the Holy See's concern for the pastoral care of international students. Ecumenical representatives Chris Nichols (InterVarsity at University of San Diego), Rabbi Serena Fujita and Rev. Ian Oliver (both from Bucknell University), joined Catholic campus ministers from their schools (Mike McIntyre at USD and Marty Moran at Bucknell) to give workshops on collaboration with campus ministers of other faith traditions.

Several issues in the news highlight the importance of these conversations.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship has come under attack at universities such as Harvard, Tufts, University of North Carolina, and Rutgers because of apparent violations of university "non-discrimination" policies. The problem? InterVarsity expects that its leaders will be Christians, and that they will embody traditional Christian moral values, whereas these universities have demanded that InterVarsity accept as leaders those who do not share InterVarsity's beliefs or values. Clearly, the law is on the side of InterVarsity. University policy cannot take precedence over constitutionally guaranteed rights of free exercise of religion and free association. This principle was affirmed by the Supreme Court last year in *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*.

On the question of international students, we should be particularly concerned by federal crackdowns, such as that in Colorado in December which resulted in the arrest of six Middle Eastern men for visa violations. The November 15 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* featured the cover story, "Kept Out," on the difficulties faced even by those students who are willing to follow all the regulations. The FBI has attempted to use college and university administrators to provide information voluntarily about foreign students, prompting the Association of American College Registrars and Admissions Officers to remind its members that they are not obligated to participate in such fishing expeditions.

How many students are we talking about? According to statistics published in the November 22, 2002, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the percentage of foreign students is highest at Columbia, with 22%. Cornell, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, and USC all have over 16%. Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin are in the 10% range. The largest number of foreign students come from Asia—leading the list are China (59,939), India (54,664—a 22% increase in one year), Japan (46,497), South Korea (45,685), Taiwan (28,566). Contrast these with the numbers from our closer neighbors, Canada (25,279) and Mexico (10,670).

As CCMA considers possible topics for institutes in the coming year, might I suggest that either of these topics would be timely, and worthy of some careful consideration for their ministry implications?