

DULUTH--Precise study rather than random inquiry is needed to give religion and theology its proper place on the campus, a UMD Religion-in-Life convocation audience heard today (April 8).

The Rev. Fr. George Carrelts, Minneapolis campus Catholic student chaplain and national chaplain of the National Newman federation, addressed students, faculty and townspeople in the opening convocation of a two-day observance in Main auditorium.

He suggested that secular colleges encourage precise study of religion.

"It is not the purpose of a university," he said, "to convert people to one religion or another but it should allow students to discover what theology has taught and is teaching," he asserted.

Warmth and wisdom will come from an honest and adequate inquiry into religion and theology, he declared. "It is easy to find surface brightness on a college campus, but a deeper warmth and love often is lacking."

"For example, it is not your function as a student of the Dead Sea scrolls to discover what you think they contain or what you hope they contain but what they actually contain."

Father Carrelts scored art and literature which "seeks to impose the theology of the artist or writer upon the characters or subjects.

"We are destroying the basic value of art if we make propaganda out of it, as the Russians are doing. Art and literature which stimulate political fanaticism or sexual excess has already lost much of its creative value."

Religion can play an important consultative role in the study of history, sociology, the arts and many other college fields, he concluded. The historical impact of religion is important to their understanding, he emphasized.

Father Garrelts will address a free public convocation at 10:30 a.m. Thursday (April 9) in Kirby Student center ballroom on "The Secular World Misunderstands Religion."

He will meet with Duluth pastors, faculty and students at a luncheon Thursday in Kirby center and at a coffee hour at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in Kirby.

Concluding event is a fellowship banquet at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Jewish Educational center at which Father Garrelts will speak on "College Students are Poor Theologians." The observance is sponsored by the UMD Religious council.