

Outlines Nine Points To Insure Interracial Amity

"Once, when I lived in Florida," said Miss Margaret Byrne, head of the Mathematics Department of St. Joseph's College, and former principal of Wadleigh High School, to the members of the Catholic Interracial Council, at 20 Vesey Street, "a spark from the railroad ignited the palmetto leaves drying on racks. In a very short time, all of Jacksonville had been burned. It is for each one of you, operating in a small way, to 'cast fire upon the earth'."

Miss Byrne, whose topic was "Techniques in Establishing Interracial Groups," showed how the individual, even as a child, can contribute to better understanding. Her mother allowed no word of hostile criticism to be spoken in the house by members of the family, servants, or visitors. Brought up in such an environment, Miss Byrne was extremely sensitive to the feelings of others.

Nine-Point Plan Outlined

Saying that her six years in Harlem had been the most productive in her life, Miss Byrne outlined a program of nine points for the men of good will in interracial questions:

1. Parish groups should invite to their Communion Breakfast members of corresponding groups in Negro parishes.
2. There should be an interracial council in every parish.
3. Schools display photographs of prominent Negroes, even though there are few Negroes in actual attendance there.
4. Every Catholic should have at least one intimate Negro friend.
5. Reading lists of books about Negroes should be used more in public libraries. Special displays of these books should be arranged during Negro History Week.
6. All people should read more books about the Negro. (Miss Byrne particularly recommended a book which, although primarily about the Jews, deals brilliantly with racism, Race, Nation, Person, a collection of nine essays published by Barnes and Noble.)
7. Study clubs, especially for

young people from 15-25, should be established in every community.

8. Catholics should become personally acquainted with aspects of life in Harlem, such as Friendship House; "Modern Trend," a youth movement at the Y. M. C. A., and the work of the churches.

9. We must get our emotion into action. Otherwise, they degenerate into mere sentimentality.

Miss Byrne agreed with one of the audience that Harlem counts among its youth some of the finest boys and girls in the world—and some of the most religious. But, as she pointed out, human beings, like their Maker, must first be known before they can be loved and served.