Montana State University Baccalaureate and Commencement

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Keying his baccalaureate address to these words of Yale University President Whitney Griswold, the Rt. Rev. Chandler W. Sterling, Episcopal bishop of Montana, called on the Montana State University class of 1963 to remain individuals in the midst of change and to resist the crowd.

The bishop spoke on the eve of MSU commencement exercises for 638 degree candidates, scheduled Monday in the Field House. The stately procession of graduates and faculty in academic garb will enter the Field House at 2 p.m. for a program that will include the charge to graduates and the awarding of diplomas by President H. K. Newburn.

The University will confer an honorary doctor of science degree upon Dr. H. G. Merriam, professor emeritus of English, and an honorary doctor of science degree upon alumnus Dr. Franklin A. Long, professor of chemistry at Cornell University.

Quoting Griswold, Bishop Sterling told the capacity audience in the University Theater Sunday, "There is no such thing as general intelligence. There is only individual intelligence communicating itself to other intelligences. ... It is the individual, and he alone, as artist, writer, inventor, scholar, explorer, scientist, spiritual leader of statesmen, who by his choice stands nearest to the source of life and transmits its essence to his fellow man."

"Any person working for the common good in any social institution today is struggling to make a model-T Ford keep up with jet engines and rockets," he continued.
Noting that everything was black or white to our grandparents, who had limited education and unlimited, simple faith, the bishop contrasted that generation's ideals with those of today. "To the people 50 years ago, the goal was achievement, not adjustment. The young were taught to work, not socialize."

These positive persons have passed from the world and that world died with them, the speaker said. Yet, our present institutions were conceived in that bygone day and so are, in many cases, archaic and unable to meet today's demands.

Introducing hard realism into the old institutions of the state, the university or the church is a disruptive, painful and subversive procedure, the prelate said. The appearance of new ideas, as well as the passing of the old, terrifies those who do not wish to remember that change is a law of life.

"To survive, an individual must become progressively more able to modify himself, adjust his values, change his reactions," Bishop Sterling said. "I am not necessarily recommending it, but simply stating the obvious."

"The emergent personality is largely without goals, other than a primary economic one and a political one," he charged. "The lack of a sense of purpose other than the immediately practical expresses itself in futility, emptiness and longing."

"Who hears? Who listens? Most hear and become angry and afraid. Some listen and discover the demand and challenge."

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