

which the Holy Father has condemned in outspoken terms. The Christian has a vocation to make peace and he has a duty to attempt to resolve the conflicts of the present day as well as the uncertainties raised by these modern methods.

In this way the conference prepared for the Feast of Peace, Christmas, which had its own celebrations at Spode House, both liturgical and convivial.

THE NEW YEAR AT SPODE HOUSE

THE YEAR 1955 opens at the Conference house with an Aquinas study week-end on human behaviour, following the second part of St Thomas' *Summa*, conducted by Fr Mark Brocklehurst, O.P. (January 8-9). This is the third of a series which links up the teaching of St Thomas with modern thinking on the subject of morality or human behaviour. This is followed by a Youth Leadership Course conducted by Fr Anthony Ross, O.P. (January 14 to 16), and a week's course for Novice Mistresses, another course for Nursing Sisters and a study week-end for engaged and young married couples (February 4 to 6). This latter on 'Christian Marriage' will have several speakers to deal with the modern problems of married life. It will give practical points to many of the principles discussed in the present issue of *THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT*. The Church's teaching on the sacrament of marriage is often found to be extremely difficult and on occasion to demand heroism from husband and wife; but often the difficulties are increased through a lack of understanding of the full implications of this teaching. It is only at such week-ends as this that personal discussion can help towards a full realization of the doctrine and its application to the individual case.

Later in the year Spode House will see the resumption of the series on Religion and the Arts—Music during Easter Week, the Visual Arts at Whitsuntide, Literature in July, and Drama in August. There will be also week-ends for Catholic Psychologists, for Catholic Philosophers, Scientists, and a *LIFE OF THE SPIRIT* conference on Prayer. All these activities are based on the common life of the Christian, not merely as intellectual exercises but as linked with the liturgy and the daily life of those who share for the time the same roof and the same board.

A booking fee of 5s. is required to be sent in advance for any of these events and should be sent to:

THE WARDEN,
HAWKESYARD PRIORY,
RUGELEY,
STAFFS.

A detailed prospectus of the courses, study week-ends, retreats and conferences will be sent on request to the Warden at the above address.