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**Collection:** Speechwriting, White House Office  
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**Folder Title:** Nancy Reagan: CYO Banquet  
June 5, 1985

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(Parvin)

MRS. REAGAN: CYO BANQUET  
JUNE 5, 1985

--Archbishop Hickey, ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for this award. It's always nice to get words of encouragement, especially from a group like CYO. We're all here tonight because of our pride, our love, our concern for young people. I might add, this ~~is a bond we share with His Holiness the Pope. When I met with him last month, His Holiness had some very heartening things to say about our young people.~~  
~~(Elaborate on Pope's comments about young people.)~~

--Graham Greene wrote that there's always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in. I think that's a wonderful way to describe how society advances. Yet, too often in recent years, when the door opens to a child's future, drugs have rushed in and shut out all other dreams and hopes.

--Drugs destroy future. . .family. . .faith. They destroy individuals.

If there is no future, no faith, no love except for a chemical, life has no meaning. I've seen young people empty of everything that is

~~precious in life. ~~And it has made me an activist~~ a word that wouldn't~~  
~~have been associated with Nancy Reagan a few years ago. I want to~~  
~~thank you for recognizing that with this award.~~ I promise you I ~~will~~  
keep working for our young people in the years ahead!

*that this emptiness is linked to all the joys & fulfillment that a drug free life can bring*  
*dedication to*

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION

JUNE 5, 1985

-- ARCHBISHOP HICKEY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THIS AWARD. IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO GET WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT, ESPECIALLY FROM A GROUP LIKE C.Y.O. WE'RE ALL HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE OF OUR PRIDE, OUR LOVE, OUR CONCERN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

--GRAHAM GREENE WROTE THAT THERE'S ALWAYS ONE MOMENT IN CHILDHOOD WHEN THE DOOR OPENS AND LETS THE FUTURE IN. I THINK

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THAT'S A WONDERFUL WAY TO DESCRIBE HOW SOCIETY ADVANCES. YET, TOO OFTEN IN RECENT YEARS, WHEN THE DOOR OPENS TO A CHILD'S FUTURE, DRUGS HAVE RUSHED IN AND SHUT OUT ALL OTHER DREAMS AND HOPES.

-- DRUGS DESTROY FUTURE...FAMILY...FAITH. THEY DESTROY INDIVIDUALS. IF THERE IS NO FUTURE, NO FAITH, NO LOVE EXCEPT FOR A CHEMICAL, LIFE HAS NO MEANING. I'VE SEEN YOUNG PEOPLE EMPTY OF EVERYTHING THAT IS PRECIOUS IN LIFE. SO WE MUST DEDICATE

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OURSELVES TO SEE THAT THIS EMPTINESS IS FILLED WITH ALL THE JOYS  
AND FULFILLMENT THAT A DRUG FREE LIFE CAN BRING. I PROMISE YOU  
MY DEDICATION TO KEEP WORKING FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE YEARS  
AHEAD.

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