

Church Laws For Seminary Demand Superior Schooling For 12 Years

In a matter so important to the life and work of the Church as the Priesthood, the Church spares no possible effort to secure for her work a supply of properly trained priests. Her legislators with regard to the training of candidates for the altar has been so carefully thought out and her program so detailed that we may say that she has had a program of vocational guidance for years.

The program of the Church for the education of young men for the altar embraces four years of high school, four years of college with emphasis on Philosophy and four years of the study of Theology.

But these twelve years of study include not only the personal of books and the passing of examinations.

Holy Church has in mind the training of the heart and the will, as well as the intellect. She wishes the student to know the Church and the things of the Church by close contact; she wishes the seminarian not only to learn about the Church, but also to

live with the Church to take part in her ceremonial, to assist at the daily Mass and the solemn functions; she expects the candidate for Orders to live in the seminary life he will oblige himself to live when he assumes the responsibilities of the Priesthood.

The student in the seminary is, then, not only going to school in the sense that he is living an ecclesiastical life, he is learning to think and feel with the Church — he is acquiring the ecclesiastical spirit.

To do all this requires time; it requires also that the candidate be protected from the contagion of worldliness. It is best accomplished if the aspirant for sacred orders is educated during all his preparation for the altar in a seminary.

Hence the program of the Church for the education of ecclesiastical students embraces six years in what is called a minor seminary, and six years in what is termed a major seminary. The program of the former embraces all the high school years and the first

and second years of college; while the program of the major seminary includes the remainder of the time until the course is completed and the student is ordained.

The course of studies in the minor seminary emphasizes for six years — though not to the exclusion of other proper branches — the study of the Latin language, since the language of the Church must be particularly well known by the priest.

This very fact is making the minor seminary increasingly necessary since in many of the public and Catholic high schools the call for Latin is on the wane and school authorities feel that they cannot afford to teach Latin to a class of three or four pupils. More and more it is becoming difficult to get four years of Latin in a secular school.

In addition to a high school

course which gives the emphasis to the subjects required by state law, the college years in the minor seminary prepare the under-graduate student for the work in philosophy and theology, by studies in the natural sciences, in English, in Greek, and ecclesiastical Latin.

Meanwhile, during these years the student is assisting at daily Mass, receiving the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist often, is associating with boys whose goal is the same as his own. He is protecting his vocation from danger, on the one hand, and is strengthening his character and his spiritual life, on the other.

It is not hard, therefore, to understand why in 1945 the Council of Trent ordered that boys of an age as young as twelve years who showed signs of a vocation should be especially trained apart from the contagion of worldliness. Nor is it difficult to see why the Second and Third Baltimore Council of the American Bishops encouraged the separate education of young men who appeared to have priestly vocations.

It is a point of pride to the Rochester Diocese that the first institution established by Bishop McQuaid on the return

from the Vatican Council was the preparatory seminary — Saint Andrew's, Saint Andrew's Seminary, eighty years old on last September 15th is an example of the foresight of Bishop McQuaid and is likewise an evidence of the generosity and faith of the Catholics of two generations ago and since.

As now constituted the high school department of St. Andrew's Seminary is recognized by the Regents of the State of New York and every graduate of the four year curriculum obtains a "College Entrance Diploma."

The fifth and sixth years at Saint Andrew's Seminary embrace the freshman and sophomore years of collegiate studies. The years of college study are continued in Saint Bernard's Seminary where the first and second classes are the equivalent of the junior and senior college years. At the end of the second year at St. Bernard's, the student is eligible for the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

The course of studies which leads to the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and which is covered in part at Saint Andrew's and in part at Saint Bernard's Seminary is approved by the University of the State of New York and the degree is registered by the same University.

Rector Says... Editorial Unfinished

Monsignor Lyons devoted his last hours of life the night before he died to his beloved St. Andrew's Seminary.

After supper, May 3, 1950, he made an inspection tour of the new seminary building then under construction. Later in the evening he began an editorial for the Seminary quarterly, "The Sator". He retired at midnight and died suddenly in his sleep.

Under the heading, "The Recto'r Says...", the following paragraphs of the unfinished editorial were found in his typewriter the next morning:

"At long last, St. Andrew's Seminary, founded in 1876, is about to sever relations with the old and original buildings of its beginnings.

"Nearly eighty years ago, the minor seminary of the diocese was opened in this very center of Catholic beginnings. Hundreds of priests have been trained through these long years; and hundreds of others in the lay state, and many already in their reward, received at St. Andrew's the spiritual strength that saw them through the after years.

"In very unpretentious buildings and with humble facilities in their training, these men of God went forth to do their work for God and for country, and hundreds of them are doing that same work today.

"The buildings that housed them are a far cry from the new Seminary. They shall occupy in September..."

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St. Andrew's
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ated into two departments: high school and college.

Both these departments organized so as to meet recognition of the Univ. of the State of New York. State Regents examinations were introduced into the school and the college courses were accredited by the university.

These progressive plans initiated by Father L. Lyons have contributed immeasurably to the prestige and efficiency of the Minor Seminary of the Rochester diocese.

The next rector was recently deceased, Monsignor Edward M. Lyons, who succeeded Father Luddy in 1945 when the latter became pastor. Monsignor Lyons, a member of the seminary for 18 years before appearing as rector, continued advanced the high scholastic standards established by his predecessors.

FOLLOWING THE sale of the seminary building to the Kodak Company in 1948, Monsignor Lyons organized and directed the transfer of student life to the temporary seminary quarters in the

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