

Students' Spiritual Life Gets Careful Guidance

By REV. J. WALTER CARRON

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Concerning the seminarian Pius XI wrote in his Encyclical on the Priesthood: "He must look to the priesthood solely, from the noble motive of consecrating himself to the service of God, and the salvation of souls; he must likewise have, or at least strive earnestly to acquire, solid piety, perfect purity of life and sufficient knowledge."

These words of Pius XI may serve to correct a notion that some have of a seminarian's life—namely, that it is one-sided.

The Holy Father stresses the two necessary aspects—solid spiritual growth, and intellectual attainment. Hence the Church sets aside so many years—namely, twelve, for training heart and mind.

The Seminary's concern for the spiritual development of its students is so important that each seminarian has a priest dedicated to that work exclusively. He is called the Spiritual Director. At the service of the student body at all times, he directs their community spiritual activities, and acts as counsellor and advisor to each individual student as regularly as the student chooses.

The chief means stressed in the seminary spiritual program are daily Mass, regular use of the Sacraments, daily recitation of the Rosary, spiritual reading, and mental prayer.

Since the student body of St. Andrew's is composed of both resident and day students, the general spiritual program is two-fold: part of it is designed for the whole student body, and part for the resident students living in community.

Day students attend daily Mass in their parish churches, and each one carries out privately his program of spiritual reading and mental prayer.

Resident students gather each morning in the Seminary chapel at 6:10 for morning prayers, meditation, and assistance at Mass. Daily spiritual reading at 5:30 in the afternoon, followed by the Angelus, and night prayers at 9:15 complete the daily chapel schedule for the resident students.

The balance of the spiritual exercises are common to all the students. Recitation of the

Rosary brings each school day to a close in the Seminary chapel. Frequently Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament concludes the school day, or the evening prayers of the boarding students.

High Mass in the Seminary chapel, or in the parish church of the city students, is a regular part of the Sunday schedule.

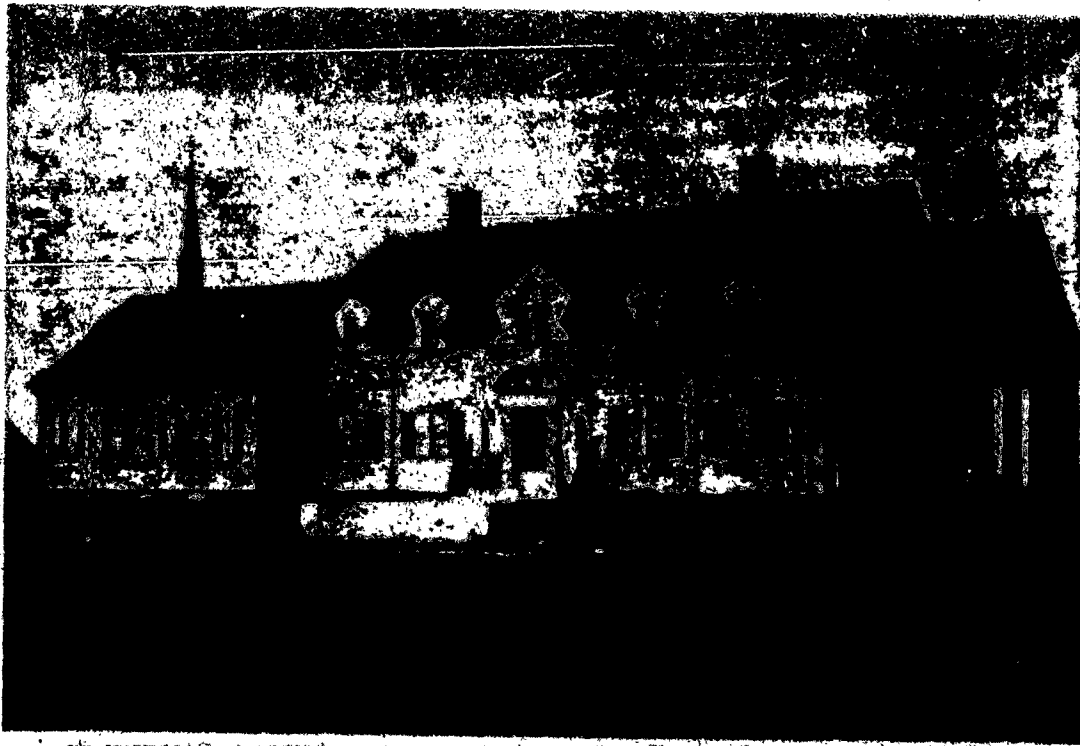
Because the Sacrament of Penance is so necessary and fruitful a means of spiritual growth—and the Church urges its frequency in candidates for the priesthood—this opportunity is available to the students at all times, even daily, through the regular spiritual director and an additional confessor from outside the Seminary.

Conferences are given weekly by the Spiritual Director to the student body. These talks which stress the meaning and method of the instruments of the spiritual life, are augmented by a Day of Recollection each month, directed by the various members of the Seminary faculty, and by the annual three day retreat conducted by members of the different religious orders.

A most important aspect of the spiritual program is the personal interview of Director and seminarian. Here—man to man—problems and difficulties can be discussed. Here it is often that the young aspirant finds encouragement to continue on his way to the altar. Here too he may gain light to see that his choice of vocation should be reconsidered.

A student's life is a busy life, and frequently his chief problem is one of co-ordination—learning how to keep his spiritual and scholastic programs adjusted to each other.

But when the same generosity that prompted him to answer the call of Christ inspires his efforts in prayer and study, he finds his seminary years developing within him that "solid piety, perfect purity of life, and sufficient knowledge" that will truly render him "all things to all men."



ST. WILLIAM FACULTY HOUSE—The former boarding residence for out-of-Rochester students, erected in 1894, is now the home for priests of the St. Andrew's faculty. Erecting on Buffalo Road it adjoins the new seminary building and has its own chapel (left) for the faculty's daily Masses.

Former Student Residence Is New Faculty Home

The new St. William House on Buffalo Road, close to the new St. Andrew's Seminary building, 1906, on new character this month as its student dormitories and study-rooms were built over into living quarters for the seminary faculty.

Erected in 1894 through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. William Douglass as a residence-hall for students from outside the city of Rochester, the graceful frame building has been a home-away-from-home for hundreds of students. The late Monsignor Edward M.

Lyons, who had founded the first student residence on Gregg Street in 1829, was the rector.

Under present plans Dr. Maynard A. Connell, rector, Rev. J. Walter Carron, spiritual director, and the Rev. William J. Riefer, prefect of studies will have rooms on the main floor of the new Seminary. Two other faculty members will live on the third floor of the new building.

All the rest of the faculty with the exception of Rev. Charles J. McCarthy, profes-

sor of music who lives at St. Bernard's Seminary, will have suites in the St. William House.

The chapel of the new seminary building has only one altar, but the St. William House chapel facilities will be used for the faculty members' morning Masses.

Another residence on the seminary property, purchased some years ago to house the overflow of students in the crowded St. William House will be used for lay employees



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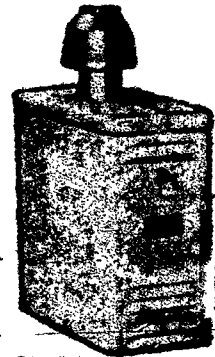
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