

Basilian Fathers Promote Wise Education Traditions

The Congregation of Priests of St. Basil (C.S.B.) is not an old one as Religious Communities are measured within the Catholic Church. Nevertheless it is old enough to have built up a tradition of quiet, unobtrusive service aiding parents in providing a Christian education for their children, and assisting bishops by caring for parishes.

The Congregation was founded after the French Revolution. Archbishop Charles d'Orléans surveyed the destruction wrought in his territory, and finding his college and seminary had disappeared, set out rebuilding them. Since the times were still unsettled, he decided upon St. Symphorien, a quiet, isolated spot, where Father Lapierre became a teacher as well as a pastor while his rectory became a boarding house.

Teaching Priests
The college flourished and was later transferred to Annemoy, the nearest city. There on Nov. 21, 1822, the worthy parish priest, turned schoolmaster and nine of his staff, moved by the spirit of God, formed themselves into a diocesan Religious Society to perpetuate their work of education. They were known simply as the teaching priests of Annemoy to distinguish them from the priests of the diocese engaged in parochial work. Asked to take charge of a school in a parish named for

St. Basil the Great, they were inspired to choose this illustrious scholar, teacher, bishop and saint as their patron. By Sept. 15, 1827 the young community was raised by the Pope to the rank of a Religious Congregation.

In 1850 a former student of Annemoy college, Armand Comte de Charbonnel, was consecrated second Bishop of Toronto. He begged his teachers to cross the ocean and help him in his diocese. The only English speaking member of the Congregation, Father Patrick Moloney, was sent at once. He landed in New York, Sept. 4, 1850. Two years later the first Basilian school in America, St. Michael's college was opened under Father Jean Saurin. He had 54 pupils under him that first year; 51 of them later became priests. Before he was called back to France in 1865, to become Superior General, he had solidly founded his Congregation in America on native vocations.

Toronto Basilians
In 1922 the Holy See separated the two provinces into distinct Congregations: the Congregation of Priests of St. Basil of Toronto, and the Congregation of Priests of St. Basil of the Diocese of Viviers. In America as in France the Congregation settled in the smaller centers of population. Consequently its growth was slow, no more than enough to staff existing schools and parishes and to make new found-



BASILIAN IN THE MAKING — This group of twenty-four young men are preparing to become members of the Basilian Fathers at St. Basil's Novitiate, Rochester. The Basilian Fathers conduct Aquinas Institute and St. John Fisher College in Rochester and other educational institutions in the United States and Canada.

ations at rather long intervals. But during the last 30 years the cities in which it located have expanded enormously, and with their growth has come a corresponding one in the Congregation. Today it numbers 308 priests, 145 scholars and 43 novices.

The motto of the Basilian Fathers, Bonitatem et Discipulatum, at Scientiam Doce Me" (Teach me goodness, discipline and knowledge), expresses their philosophy of teaching. In all their dealings with students they emphasize first, the duty of a good Christian; second,

character and self control; and lastly knowledge. The threefold lesson is taught as much by example as by word; the most heavily burdened teacher spends more time in spiritual exercises prescribed by his rule than he does in the classroom.

Basilian colleges and high schools are not bound to a uniform curriculum of studies; the subjects taught and the work covered vary widely from place to place. The wishes of ecclesiastical superiors and the prescriptions of accrediting boards and civil regulations determine the courses of studies, a policy in keeping with the Basilian tradition of meeting local needs.



REV. EDWARD McCORKELL
Superior General
Basilian Fathers

athletic program — including varsity and intramural programs in many sports: football, basketball, baseball, boxing, bowling, golf and skiing. Many clubs and co-curricular activities are sponsored by the school, and all students are encouraged to participate in these activities.

The school emphasizes the spiritual life. Opportunity is given to attend daily Mass in the Chapel at 8:00. The sodality which has for its aim the practice of filial devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, has introduced many fine projects, such as the Perpetual Rosary. The Mission Unit has been set up not only for the spiritual and material help of the missions, but to inspire in the students a greater love for God and the spread of his kingdom on earth.

Thus Aquinas, as all other Basilian schools and colleges, strives to educate the whole man, because the subject of Christian education is "Man, whole and entire, soul united to body in unity of nature."

Trained Teachers

Members are carefully prepared for their life of teaching. All have academic degrees and teachers' certificates; nearly all have had the benefit of some postgraduate training, and more than half the priests hold advanced degrees from the leading universities of America and Europe. From this last comes a freshness of outlook acquired in Basilian schools. The majority of Basilian vocations come from their own high schools and colleges.

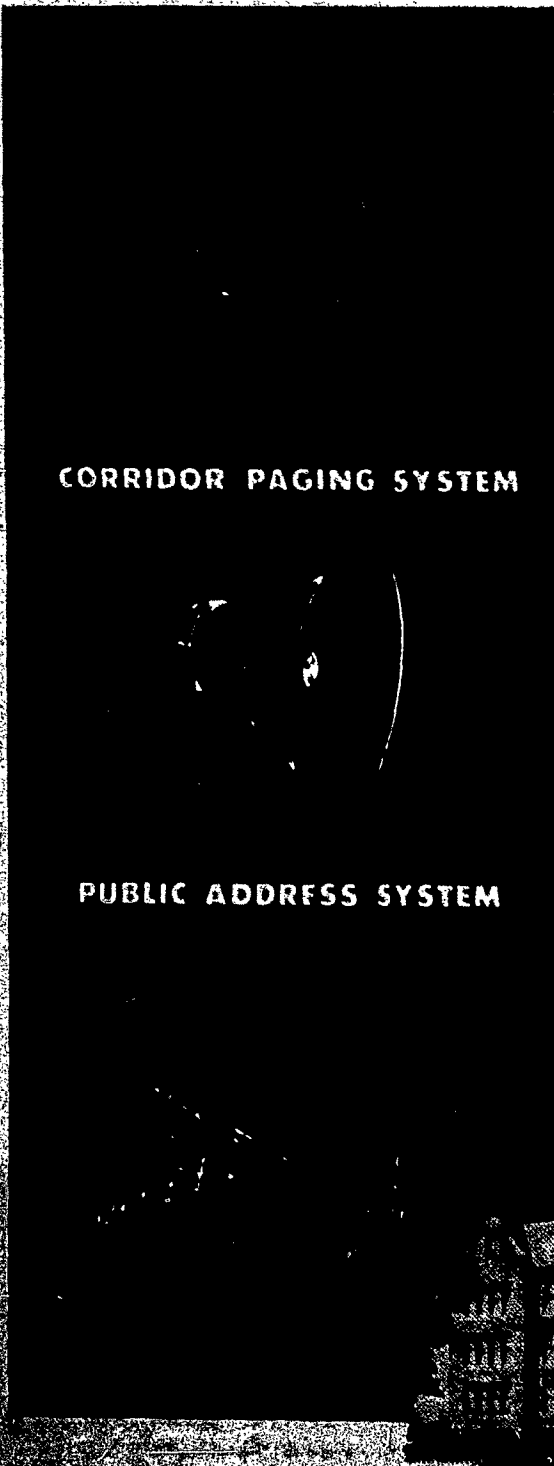
Aquinas Institute

At the request of Archbishop (now Cardinal) Mooney, the Basilians took over the Aquinas Institute of Rochester in 1937. The enrollment increased yearly to the extent that another unit was formed, the Aquinas Annex which houses the freshman class.

Aquinas has both a pre-college course and a general course. Every graduate leaves Aquinas with a Regents diploma and is prepared to pursue further studies at some college or university. Approximately 20 scholarships are obtained each year to various colleges and universities.

The school has an all-around

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