

Seminary College Students To Attend St. John Fisher Classes Next Year

Students for the priesthood in the Rochester Diocese will spend four of their twelve years of study at St. John Fisher College, Bishop Kearney announced today.

The plan is scheduled to get underway with the academic year beginning in September, 1965.

The Bishop said the far-reaching decision was made "to meet the increasing educational requirements of the clergy of the modern world."

He said the "seminarians at college" plan "not only serves to ease the increasing burden of providing for a complete education for our

future priests but also provides them with a closer relationship with the laity—with whom and for whom they are to work for the remainder of their priestly lives."

According to the Bishop's announcement, seminary studies will be made on a "four-four-four" basis instead of the present "six-six"—four years high school at St. Andrew's Seminary, four years college study at St. John Fisher College and four years theological study at St. Bernard's Seminary.

At present St. Andrew's adds two years of college to its high school course and St. Bernard's completes the remaining two years of college prior to theological studies.

Bishop Kearney explained the facts which shaped the decision to make the change.

New York State education authorities earlier this year reported that facilities at both seminaries were working "at the limits of human endurance" and urged that facilities and faculties at the two schools be increased to meet the needs of rising seminary enrollments and to provide a more varied curriculum in keeping with present day trends to "a wide diversification in college studies."

Diocesan officials probed for solutions, the Bishop stated but inevitably faced the problem of how to finance and staff a vastly expanded college program at the two seminaries.

The State authorities proposed a link with St. John Fisher College. College officials there welcomed the idea as "mutually beneficial" to both Diocese and College.

Details of the plan, according to Bishop Kearney, have yet to be finalized. Present tentative plans indicate seminary students will be enrolled as "regular students"—to attend college classes with other students at the College, they will commute from their homes or from the seminary.

Future arrangements may include a residence for them at St. John Fisher College.

Father Charles J. Lavery, president of the nearly 1000 student College, said enrolling the seminarians "will strengthen our student standards and provide an interesting and beneficial challenge to our faculty."

In making the announcement—which marks the first major change in seminary education in the Rochester Diocese since Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid established St. Andrew's Seminary in 1870 and St. Bernard's Seminary in 1893—Bishop Kearney voiced his gratitude to diocesan, college and state officials who hammered out the cooperative plan after a series of more than 40 meetings during the past three months.

"We are indeed very grateful to them for the many long hours of serious consideration they gave to the education of our future priests," Bishop Kearney said.

He and Father Lavery also issued the following statements:

BISHOP KEARNEY stated:

"The new arrangement of the educational program of students for the priesthood is absolutely necessary if we are to maintain certification in the State of New York. What was acceptable in the past is no longer acceptable. While it may be true that many of the demands of accrediting agencies are arbitrary and often unreasonable, the fact remains that they have power to grant or withhold. We owe it to our students and to their future responsibilities to give them the least cause for feeling that their preparation is inadequate and therefore not recognized by the State Department of Education."

FATHER LAVERY stated:

"The decision of Bishop Kearney to transfer his college students to the campus of St. John Fisher College has been accepted by the Board of Regents, the Faculty and Administration with enthusiasm and at the same time with a realistic appreciation of the problems involved in a move of such historic significance.

"The College is in the midst of a development program for a student body of 1200 students. The diocesan students shall be able to participate as regular students in the academic and cultural life of the College. Their education, side by side with the lay students and by a faculty, lay and religious, is very much in line with the directives of the Popes and the Vatican Council. It is very much in accord with the spirit of the Ecumenical movement.

"It is the hope and prayer of the entire Administration and Faculty of St. John Fisher College that this decision of Bishop Kearney shall be most fruitful for the life of the Church in Rochester and for the entire community which St. John Fisher College seeks to serve."

Nikita's Heir 'Meditates'

Vatican City —(RNS)— For the second time in 18 months, one of Soviet Russia's top echelon Communists made news by visiting the tiny capital of world Catholicism.

Accompanied by Simon Kovryev, Russian Ambassador to Italy, Leonid I. Brezhnev, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., strolled through the Vatican Museum and St. Peter's Basilica. He then descended into the crypt of the great church to spend five minutes in "meditation" before the tomb of Pope John XXIII.

(He did not meet Pope Paul who is at the summer Vatican, Castel Gandolfo, 15 miles outside Rome.)

President Brezhnev was in Rome to head the Russian delegation at the funeral of Palmiro Togliatti, head of the Italian Communist Party who died of a stroke while visiting Moscow.

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Words of Savior For Today's World

East Lansing—(NC)—If Christ were preaching to present-day Americans He might urge them to care for the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, the imprisoned and the naked in slightly different terms, said a priest here.

Father Dennis J. Geaney, O.S.A., suggested to delegates at the sixth national Curial Conference at Michigan State University that they look upon Christ's exhortations in these terms:

"I was hungry and you supported the Alliance for Progress.

"I was thirsty and you worked to bring Peace Corps and Papal Volunteers to teach irrigation methods.

"I was sick and you wrote to your congressman about Medicare, and you perfected Salk vaccine.

"I was in prison in the slavery and shackles of my skin, and you came to Mississippi to visit me.

"I was naked, stripped of my human dignity, my right to work, to live decently, and you worked for my freedom."

Polish Prelate Sees Church Final Victor

Czestochowa — (RNS) — A crowd of nearly 100,000 pilgrims gathered outside the shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in the Jasna Gora monastery here, heard Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, declare that the Church was winning the struggle for survival in this Communist-ruled country.

Speaking on the feast day of the Black Madonna, the cardinal said "the forces of darkness have started an action against the Cross, but such an action is doomed to failure.

"The Cross remains and will remain as the sign of our ancient faith. The future of Poland and the Church are intertwined and will remain intertwined."

"The forces of the Church," Cardinal Wyszynski told the crowd, "is not of a political nature, but lies in its sanctifying grace."

Surrounded by numerous members of the Polish hierarchy, he cited as one of the trials the Church is undergoing in Poland the government-approved birth control program, which he said must be condemned in the strongest terms.

The cardinal began by saying that "we belong to those people who continue to have faith in the Virgin Mary."

Race Bias A Sin

Sacramento — (RNS) — "Deliberate and willful segregation" violates a commandment of God, the Catholic bishops of California said here in a document condemning racial discrimination.

In reaffirming the stand of the Church on race, justice, the eight prelates said "It is our earnest and united hope that these thoughts may assist our people to form a right conscience with regard to their participating in public affairs, and to encourage them to work together toward the goal of healing the ancient wounds of discrimination."

The statement made no mention of Proposition 13, the controversial proposal on which Californians will vote in November. It passed by popular vote, the referendum initiative would abolish California's current law against discrimination in housing transactions and permanently ban "legislation from considering 'fair housing' legislation in future.

James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles, headed the list of bishops signing the statement.

Cardinal McIntyre has taken no stand on Proposition 13, holding that the issue is one of a political nature. However, a majority of California's Catholic prelates, notably Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken of San Francisco, have condemned the initiative as immoral.

"Discrimination, based solely on race, color, nationality or religion, cannot be reconciled with the truth that God has created all men with equal rights and equal dignity," the bishops said. "Deliberate and willful segregation by its very nature imposes a stigma of inferiority upon the segregated people and violates the Divine command: 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.'"

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Goal for U.S. Workers, Employers Prosperity thru Cooperation

(NCCW Bureau of Information)

Washington — "We have moved into a markedly different and, hopefully, a much better kind of economic system."

This was the central theme of the annual Labor-Day Statement issued today by the head of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

"This seventeenth annual statement is a reflection of current labor-management trends as the nation pays tribute to its working force on the last long weekend of the summer.

Stressing the cooperative role of labor and management, Monsignor George C. Higgins said "there is a growing awareness, not only in this country but in other industrialized countries as well, that the pro-

duction of goods and services for the general welfare of society as a whole is a common enterprise."

Monsignor Higgins, head of the NCCW Social Action Department, quoted Pope Paul VI's statement: "Done by the community of men, work unites them among themselves in a close interdependence, and it usually orders itself towards the common good."

The Labor Day Statement also cites Pope Paul's directive that both labor and management should enter "into collaboration with the public powers for the common prosperity." Reflecting on the papal directive the statement declares that "private enterprise in the industrial sector of our economy gives a high degree of intelligent cooperation between management and labor, can help to

solve the problem of mass unemployment and mass poverty in the midst of plenty, but it cannot and should not be expected to do the job alone."

Directing its attention specifically to leaders of management and labor the statement asks that "every effort should be made to improve upon the techniques of collective bargaining" so that both segments of the working world will engage in "jointly tackling the economic problems which beset the United States at the present time."

THE FIRST TARGET at which this joint effort should aim is poverty in our nation.

(Continued on Page 3)

Your Diamonds Inspected and Cleaned—No Charge. William S. Thorne Jeweler, 315 Main St. East—Adv.

Schools Open Wednesday

An army of more than 60,000 scholars will march back to the battle of the books as Catholic schools of the Rochester Diocese open again Wednesday, Sept. 9.

Father William Roche, diocesan superintendent of schools, said nearly 50,000 are enrolled in parochial schools, more than 10,000 in high schools and more than 3,000 in colleges.

Parents are advised to consult parish or school bulletins for exact schedules of classes.

Like their counterparts in scores of schools around the Diocese, pupils in new uniforms at new St. Francis Xavier school, Rochester, in photo at right, are ready for classes after a "long, hot summer." Sister Francis Mary, principal, visits with John Maira, Diana Iorio and Janette Giglia.

