

Seminary Refresher Courses for Priests

Theology has suddenly in our day, and particularly since the Vatican Council, become one of the most popular disciplines of the educated world.

Unfortunately, too much information has been imbibed from ephemeral sources, such as weekly magazines. As the poet, Alexander Pope put it: "Their shallow draughts intoxicate the brain".

The difference between a river and a swamp is that a river has depth and a swamp has breadth but no depth.

In order that the intellectual excellence, which is presently at St. Bernard's Seminary, may be shared by the priests of this diocese, and in order that any superficialities may be swallowed up by direct scholarship, we are offering to the priests of this diocese the following program.

Three programs for the 1967-68 academic year have been announced, each having two series of lecture-discussions:

1. Theology Today

2. Modern Man and Religion
3. Seminar on Medico-Moral Problems

First Series — Theology Today

This series will be opened on Tuesday, October 17, by Father Edward Dillon, Professor of Old Testament Scriptures, speaking on "Scripture Today".

On Tuesday, October 24, the noted author-lecturer, Dr. Douglas Hyde, Visiting Professor of St. Bernard's Seminary, will speak on "Christian Leadership Today".

Second Series — Modern Man and Religion

Father David Murphy, Vice Rector and Dean of Studies, will follow on Tuesday, November 7, with "The Theology of Revelation Today".

On Tuesday, November 14, the topic of the lecture will be "Sacramental Theology Today", presented by Father John Wagner, Professor of Special Dogmatic Theology.

The series will conclude on Tuesday, November 21, with Father Patrick Logan, Professor of Special Moral Theology, speaking on "Moral Theology Today".

Third Series — Medical and Moral Problems

Dr. William Lynch of Boston will be at St. Bernard's for two three-day periods in February and April to lecture on medico-moral problems. Details of his visit and an invitation to the priests of the diocese will be published at a later date when all the arrangements are completed.

The spring series of lecture-discussions will be announced later.

In addition to admitting priests as regular participants in seminary courses under the designation of Special Student, nuns and laymen will also be able to take courses, if academic requirements are met. St. Bernard's courses will also be open to interested Protestants who have the proper academic background. It is hoped that this will be one of the contributions of St. Bernard's Seminary to the ecumenical movement, in accordance with the principle of the Second Vatican Council that "the concern for restoring unity involves the whole Church."

Other programs of Continuing Education for Priests will be announced as they are developed. The aim of all the programs is to fulfill the goals set by the Fathers of the Council, to enable priests "to acquire a better grasp of pastoral methods and theological science, to strengthen their spiritual lives, and to share their apostolic experiences with their brothers".

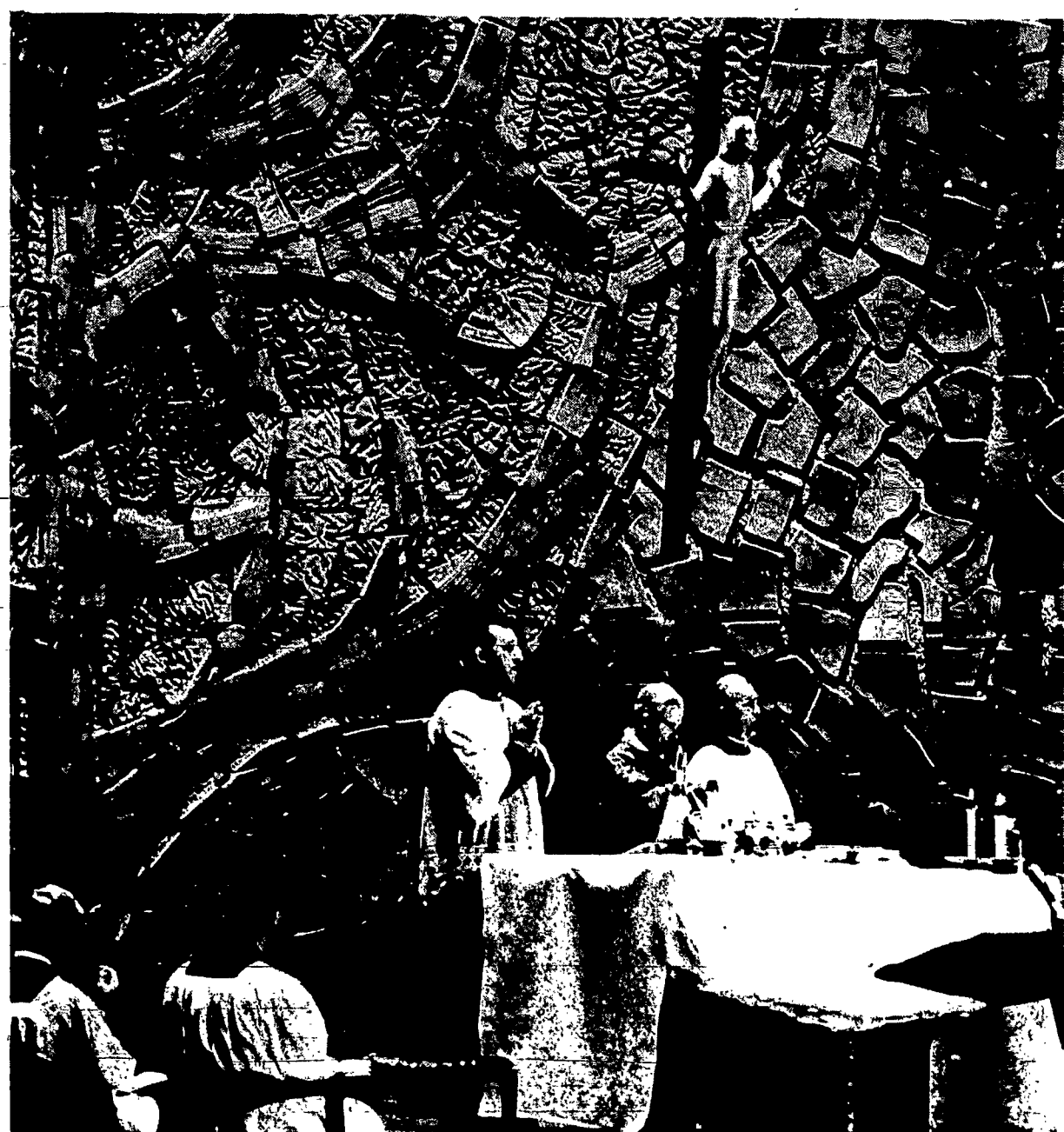
Scripture says: "The lips of the priest contain wisdom". May these courses mature theological thinking in the diocese.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ FULTON J. SHEEN

Bishop of Rochester

P.S. Please pray for me and ask your people to pray that I may be guided by the Holy Spirit at the Synod.



Bishop Sheen said Mass at St. John's Church in Greece Sunday noon. Other pictures of his visit there are on page 19.

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Synod of Bishops

The Council Continues

Sollicitudo — the Latin word for care, concern, anxiety — is the word Pope Paul borrowed from St. Paul to explain the purpose of the Synod of Bishops soon to meet in Rome.

The announcement that Pope Paul had appointed Bishop Sheen to the Synod brought a host of memories of the Vatican Council back into focus.

I had the very good fortune to be in St. Peter's Basilica the morning Pope Paul told the world's Catholic bishops of his plan to establish the Synod as a way of continuing the Council.

The next day the Pope was again back at the Council for a reading of the motu proprio decree officially establishing the Synod, a representative parliament of the world's bishops.

The document begins with the statement, "Our apostolic concern — sollicitudo — impels us to tighten the bonds of our unity with the bishops... for the welfare of the universal Church."

This echoes St. Paul's letter to the people of Corinth when he listed his work and sufferings for the faith — whipped, stoned, shipwrecked, robbed, sleepless nights, hungry and besides all these "outer things," he says, "there is my daily pressing anxiety — sollicitudo — the care of all the churches!"

Pope Paul told the bishops of his plans for the Synod at the end of the Mass opening the final three-month session of the Vatican Council Tuesday, Sept. 14, 1965.

For most of that Mass I had kept to the spot assigned to the press — and happened to stand next to Paul Blanshard, once the outspoken critic of the Catholic Church which he considered, along with Communism, as a major threat to American freedom.

Towards the end of the Mass

I moved up to one of the balconies along the long nave of the basilica to look down on the tiers of bishops. More than 2000 prelates were there from virtually every nation on earth — what Pope Paul described as a "solemn celebration of the unity of the visible Church."

I tried to locate Bishop Casey who was then Auxiliary Bishop of the Rochester Diocese but I couldn't identify him in that sea of faces. Once I did recognize, however, Bishop Sheen — little suspecting that within two years he would be our Bishop. (I took a picture of him but

it didn't come out, not enough light that day in St. Peter's.)

Then I turned to see if I could identify any of the clergy in the balcony. These were the "periti" — the scholars who served as advisers to the bish-

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Pope Paul announced establishment of Synod of Bishops at Mass he celebrated at St. Peter's at start of final session of Vatican Council in 1965. Synod will meet next Friday, probably for a month-long session. Bishop Sheen will attend with six other U.S. bishops and close to 200 prelates from other nations.

Open House at Becket

Just completed Becket Hall for seminarians at St. John Fisher College will be open to the public this Sunday, Sept. 24, 2 to 5 p.m.

The Hall is home for 108 students for the priesthood who will make their college studies at Fisher as part of a revamped diocesan seminary program.

Becket Hall was built as part of a higher education expansion project begun two years ago with a ten million dollar fund campaign.

Visitors to this Sunday's open house are asked to park on the Fisher college campus and a shuttle service will take them to Becket Hall which has limited parking facilities.

Mercy to All in Need

By JEFF ENDERST
Special Correspondent

Bonn — (RNS) — Germans are waging a kind of war in Vietnam which even the Vietcong respect.

This has been the experience of the Maltese Cross, a German humanitarian and relief organization affiliated with the ancient Roman Catholic order of the Knights of Malta.

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The Maltese Cross has been working in South Vietnam since last March, when an agreement was signed by the Bonn and Saigon governments to make it possible. Under the terms of the agreement, the agency can care for refugees, and the sick irrespective of their religion, place of origin or political outlook.

Officials of the Maltese Cross here report that the Vietcong, who do not recognize the International Red Cross, do not stand in the way of medical teams bearing the insignia of the Maltese Cross.

Officials agree that the Vietcong are probably motivated by the fact that West Germany, although allied with the United States in NATO, has no military personnel in Vietnam. Another important factor in the Vietcong

psychology is self-interest. "There is no doubt that many of the sick and wounded our medical teams treat are from the Vietcong ranks," one official here acknowledged.

The Maltese Cross does not operate in North Vietnam, however.

Despite much initial red tape, the operation is well under way now, due in a great measure to generous cooperation offered by local U.S. military commanders.

The administrators of the program here claim that the key to success in Vietnam is the determination of the Maltese Cross teams to establish direct and personal contact with the local people. Also important, in their view, is not to flood the population with too much attention and aid at one time.

for Interracial Justice. A similar appeal was issued by the National Council of Churches.

The demonstrations, led by Father James E. Groppi, assistant pastor of Milwaukee's St. Boniface Church, are now in their fourth week.

Meanwhile Archbishop William E. Cousins of Milwaukee was resisting heavy pressure urging him to suspend Father Groppi.

Insisting that Father Groppi was not the issue, the Milwaukee prelate pointed out that the underlying causes of racial unrest "existed long before Father Groppi's advent."

Voters Face Test on Fairness To Children

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Marching for Justice in Milwaukee

In an editorial in the Catholic Herald-Citizen, Archbishop Gousins noted that he does not agree with everything that Father Groppi has done. "However," he added, "the real and basic issues should be the name of the game."

Milwaukee's City Council this week referred to its legal advisor an open housing ordinance introduced by Mrs. Vel Phillips, only Negro member of the Council.

"There will have to be some kind of compromise eventually," Father Finks said, but declined to predict just what it would be.

While Wisconsin does have a

state open housing law, it only covers about one-fourth of the residences in the state, he pointed out.

Fathers Finks and Brennan were footsore but smiling after putting in two nights of grueling marches into Milwaukee's Southside over the weekend. The Saturday night march took four and a half hours, the Sunday night march lasted for five. Both covered almost 20 miles.

"The police cover was very tight — they are not going to let things get out of hand as they did earlier," Father Finks said. (Whites and Negroes had clashed in a rock throwing

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Baptists to Hear Baum Instead of Bishop Sheen

In sports page parlance, the Baptists will send in a Canadian priest to pinch hit for a Rochester bishop.

New York State Baptists had scheduled Bishop Sheen as keynote speaker at their Oct. 2 to 4 convention in Rochester — and when Pope Paul summoned the prelate to Rome for the Synod meeting of bishops from around the world.

Rev. George Hill, one of the convention's officials, asked the Bishop to help find a substitute.

The Bishop promptly phoned Augustinian Father Gregory Baum at St. Michael's College, Toronto, and signed him up for the Baptists.

Father Baum is one of the most prolific writers on ecumenical topics in the Church today.

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