

Experiment in Leadership

By PINCHER LEAVEN

A school which originated in a renovated stable and for 97 years had been the diocese's minor seminary, was given a new title and a new future on June 2, 1967. St. Andrew's Seminary became King's Preparatory for boys and girls desiring a religious vocation education.

Deliberately deciding not to emphasize the vocation to the priesthood, in high school years, King's Prep on Buffalo Road was pointed by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, its founder, to be the first school of vocation in the United States where young men and women will unite to help one another solve their problems of total commitment to God and mankind.

It was to be a bold experiment, a "school for the spiritually elite," the Bishop said, requiring facilities and techniques "to train the leaders of the next generation either in the vertical relationship to God through the religious life, or the horizontal relationship to humanity."

Shortly after his arrival in the diocese in December, 1966, Bishop Sheen began an intensive review of the then, St. Andrew's Seminary. A majority of priests of the diocese advised him to close the school.

Established by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid at the old St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1870, to provide for the training of young men who felt called to the priesthood, St. Andrew's operated exclusively to prepare students for St. Bernard's, complementing its academic program with the disciplines expected of candidates for Holy Orders.

St. Andrew's then fitted into the first of the 4-4 program of seminary education leading to ordination; St. Andrew's offered 4 years of high school, Becket Hall the college years and St. Bernard's Seminary completing the last four years of theology.

After 5 months the bishop culminated his research with a decision to establish in its stead a co-educational college preparatory school, designed to stress specialized training in Chris-

tian leadership for both the religious and lay apostolates.

He wrote that the school would accept only that student who shows "a probable desire to dedicate himself, in any way God may elect, to the service of humanity, the poor, the community and the missions."

He further stressed that the teaching program would be revised and upgraded to make it one of the outstanding schools of the country.

The work began at once. In order to fulfill the Bishop's dream, the faculty and administration realized the urgency to break with the stereotypes and philosophies which stultified the growth of the Christian person in the past, and to restructure its teaching methods into new, more dynamic avenues of learning.

A new reactor, Father Emmett Haloran, was appointed to direct the renewal.

Conferences and visitations were arranged with educational leaders and institutions throughout the country. Special notice was taken of the work of Frank Brown of Melbourne, Florida, who originated in a workable way the concept of non-graded education, through which a student is able to mature academically at his own pace.

Attention was given to the philosophies of area educators as well, especially those of Walter Baden of the Wheatland-Chull school district, and Dr. David Warner of Honeye Falls, both recognized innovators in the education of high-school students.

The school year 1967-68 was a year of transition. There was almost a complete faculty turn-over. The theme of all the faculty meetings was the question: "How can we implement structural and philosophical changes to reach the goals that have been set for us?"

Then concrete proposals came forth. Theology, rather than being a separate study unit to itself, was to become an integral element in the study of the arts and sciences. Flexible scheduling would be incorporated,

making concentration in certain areas more effective by providing more time for the development of a single theme.

Formerly it seemed that just as a teacher was able to probe more deeply into a subject the signal came for the end of the class. This would be no longer the case. Non-graded classes with team teaching and team learning could be implemented at once.

And, most importantly, with the cooperation of local industry and social agencies, heavier stress would be placed on acquiring skills needed for community social service than in any school heretofore.

The genesis of this far-reaching program is under way. Twenty young ladies, not admitted in the days of St. Andrew's, now grace the halls of King's Prep. Former disciplines have given way to a more relaxed, more mature atmosphere. The students seem more deeply aware of the events, difficulties and celebrations which characterize our contemporary world than ever before.

The enthusiastic discussions which this reporter heard detailing the one year's accomplishments and plans for the future of this school, were evidence of both the dedication and commitment of both the faculty and students towards the creation of a unique center, not only for the scholarly advancement of a few, but for the personal development of the whole people of God.

(To be continued next week)



Designs for a logarithm filmstrip are worked out by St. Joseph Sisters Kostka Sobala, left, of St. Agnes High School, and Ann Xavier, center, of Nazareth Academy. The two math instructors devised the logarithm program with their students and sold it to a producer of audio-visual materials. They have contracted to prepare three other mathematics programs.

Seminar Scheduled On Racial Problem

A seven-week dialog seminar, set for Sunday evenings starting Oct. 6, will offer fresh insights on what many observers judge the nation's greatest internal problem — the race question.

Sponsored by the Catholic Interracial Council (CIC), the series will be keyed to short films, followed by discussion led by a knowledgeable leader. The seminar will be at St. John the Evangelist Church hall on Humboldt Street.

A special feature, according to CIC president Paul Brayer, will be emphasis on indicating avenues of commitment.

"We hope to provide not only the latest information on the racial picture, but acquaint participants with groups and programs which are doing a good job in this area," he stated.

The final seminar will be devoted to representatives of area organizations involved in different aspects of the race question. Seminar topics are:

- Oct. 6: "Commitment to racial justice — do you believe in it?" Oct. 13: "Goals of the Black Revolution — what are they?" Oct. 20: "Discrimination and underemployment of Black Americans — what should we do about it?" Oct. 27: "An analysis of the Civil Disorders (Kerner) report by Black Americans."

Nov. 3: "Education: Equal or Unequal?" Nov. 10: "Confrontation: Black and White — and where do we go from here?" Nov. 17: "What can I do? — Answers to the commitment dilemma."

Seminars are scheduled for 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. A \$3 fee for reading materials will be charged. Pre-registration is not necessary.

Bishop Sheen To Celebrate Special Mass

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen will be principal concelebrant of a Mass of Thanksgiving at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13, in Rochester's Eastman Theatre in another among continuing events marking the 100th anniversary of the Rochester Diocese.

Groups and organizations wishing to be represented in the procession and to be seated in special section for the Mass may make reservations with Father R. Richard Brickler at Holy Family Church rectory, Ames Street, 328-3110.

Father Michael F. Conboy, assistant pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church, Irondequoit, is chairman of arrangements for the Mass.

Among highlights of future centennial observances are:

Oct. 9-10 — St. Bernard's Seminary Alumni Reunion, marking the 75th anniversary of the alumni association.

Nov. 4 — Lectures by the Rev. Richard Wurmbrand, a Lutheran minister who recently released from Communist imprisonment in his Rumanian homeland.

Late November — A TV presentation titled "A Diocese Looks at Its 100 Years," expected to be made available to all channels in the Diocese.

Dec. 10 — A "musical evening" at Nazareth College Arts Center.

Aquinas Grads Set Meeting

Hundreds of Aquinas Institute graduates are expected to attend the annual meeting of the Aquinas Alumni Association at 8 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 30 in the school auditorium.

In mid-September a meeting of class representatives spanning a 50-year period elected Michael P. Casella, class of 1950 as its chairman and Thomas H. O'Connor, 1912, as vice chairman.

The representatives will present to the general membership a slate of officers for the coming year. Currently Milo I. Fomanovich, 1955, is president; Judge Arthur E. Curran, 1944, vice president; Thomas P. Riley, 1956, secretary; and John H. Lyng, 1954, treasurer. Directors include Martin J. Moll, 1938; John F. Farrinello, 1956; and Thomas A. Enright, 1959.

Father Leon G. Hart, C.S.B., principal, speaking to the class representatives said, "An association of men imbued with the Aquinas spirit and Aquinas traditions will assist us, not just in maintaining the present quality of our Alma Mater, but in maintaining the momentum for improvement that has been generated through many years of toil and trouble and pleasure and pride."

'Fashion Therapy' Weaves Lessons in Self-Confidence

A therapy for women shut-ins which emphasizes fashion and grooming is the "stepping stone to needed self-confidence," claims a Mercy Sister who leads a unique apostolate.

Sister Mary Dismas settled into a chair in the living room of Our Lady of Mercy Motherhouse on Blossom Road and talked about the women she teaches sewing to every week at the Rochester State Hospital.

"A woman who lives at the State Hospital usually has few friends, who make infrequent visits if they come at all. She has lost her sense of personal direction and may have very little self-confidence. She often feels that no one loves her, and many times this is true—no body really does love her."

To 15 or 20 women like this each week Sister Dismas is a friend; she is someone who cares, and she is someone who guides them toward self-esteem and accomplishment.

Sister Dismas and a group of Sisters and students from Mercy High

School give sewing lessons each week at the hospital as part of a "Fashion Therapy" rehabilitation program.

Begun two years ago by the hospital and the Rochester Mental Health Association, the program is under the leadership of Mrs. James H. Thirle, sales promotion director for Sibley, Lindsay & Curr.

Volunteers in the "Fashion Therapy" program, all specialists in their professions, instruct the women in personal grooming and posture, make-up, hair styling and interviewing for a job. These classes meet every other week.

"These simple things are stepping-stones to the self-confidence that the women need," Sister Dismas explained.

Sister Dismas started her sewing classes long before the "Fashion Therapy" program was initiated, however. Four years ago she and Sister M. de Chantal, also from Mercy High Home Economics department, responded to a request from the hospital for lessons in sewing. The hospital provided two sewing machines. Sister Dismas and her group did the rest.

"We had no money for fabric, of course," she recalled. "I went from store to store asking for material. People saved things for me. We had a student whose mother lived in Pennsylvania where there was a mill. Each year I sent her \$20 and she filled up two or three boxes of remnants."

The "Fashion Therapy" program won a state award last year in recog-

nition of its service to the community. This year it is one of ten finalists in a nationwide contest honoring community service groups. The award, to be announced later this year in Washington, D.C., carries a \$5,000 prize.

"That would buy a lot of thread and needles," Sister Dismas said, laughing.

Five Sisters from Mercy Motherhouse have joined Sister Dismas and Sister de Chantal in the weekly trip to the hospital. They are Sister Stephen, Sister Martina, Sister Theodore, Sister McAuley and Sister Marie Catherine.

Two former students of Mercy High, Bonnie Rawlings and Sue Keenan, both of whom work at Xerox, have continued to give their time and help.

Sister Dismas thinks she has worked with more than 200 different women in the four years she has been giving sewing lessons. She doesn't consider her effort special, but emphasizes the unused skills she is able to encourage helping women remake the fabric of their lives.

"When we have our fashion show and the women model what they have made themselves, it is really a milestone for them. People tell them how nice they look and how pretty their hand-finished outfits are.

"It makes them feel that they are somebody and that they can do something. It's very simple, but self-respect is something important and precious."

Teens in Pilot Project

A religious education program that has moved away from ordinary techniques will open Sunday night for the public school sophomores of Our Lady of Mercy parish in Greece.

Among the speakers will be Thomas Whalen of St. John Fisher College, a former crewman aboard Hope, the international hospital ship; Sisters Ellen Marie Kopko and Theresa Peters, Mercy Order novices, and George Walker of the Monroe County Savings

Bank. Group discussions will follow each talk.

Robert Maurice, coordinator of the separate programs that have been planned for the four high school levels, has said that "each session should be a fast-moving experience, not the normal classroom situation."

He described the project as a "pilot program which the diocese will be watching closely."

PAT ANSWERS

Do you have questions about parish-life, customs and traditions which bug you? The famous HELP! column doesn't know everything. Try PAT ANSWERS! . . . But don't ask PAT about faith or morals. Simply write in your concerns and hang-ups about living in the family of God . . . Address: PAT ANSWERS, 35 Scio Street, Rochester 14604. PAT'S answers will not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Editor, —or of the Diocese.

Q. The only church council I ever see cited in my reading, except the two Vatican Councils, is the Council of Trent. When was that, and why is it so often referred to?
—N. M., Rochester.

A. The 19th ecumenical council of the Church began in the town of Trent, in the Tyrol section of northern Italy, in December, 1545, in the pontificate of Pope Paul III. It closed 18 years later in December, 1563, after 25 sessions. Its main object was to define Catholic doctrine against the heresies of the Protestants which began around 1517 and to bring about reform within the Church by checking the abuses widely recognized within the structure and the persons of the Church. Decrees were passed concerning the doctrines of original sin, grace, the rule of faith, the seven sacraments and the Mass. Reforms concerned the bishops' jurisdictions, clergy morals and seminary education. It is referred to as "the most productive council ever held" until Vatican II of the 1960's.

Q. We have been invited to attend a nuptial Mass and reception by a casual acquaintance of my husband's. We can't make the reception, but are planning to be at the Mass. My husband says that the Nuptial Mass in-observation deserves a gift, as a matter of etiquette. I disagree. May we have an opinion, please?
—R. J., Auburn.

A. Have you checked with Amy Vanderbilt? It seems that a "wedding gift" is required according to the degree of friendship or familiarity one has with the couple, rather than whether you attend the church service and/or the party afterward. Certainly sending a gift in terms of "paying the couple back" is poor motivation and should not be applied to the Mass they invite you to share with them.

Q. On Sept. 8 the Mass liturgy marked the feast of "the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin". How much do we

know about the birth and early life of Mary?
—J. K. L., Fredonia.

A. Historians do not know the exact birthday nor the birthplace of the Blessed Virgin. The New Testament tells very little about her but tradition relates that her mother was Anne and her father Joachim and that she probably was brought up in the area of Palestine near Nazareth and Cana. The feast marking her birth is very ancient, and probably sentimental, manner of marking Mary's entrance into the world to fulfill her role in the plan of salvation.

Q. Last week's TV movie of "Becket" has led to the question: was Archbishop Becket historically portrayed in the movie, especially in his early life, and is he called a "saint" by the Church?
—B. K., Rochester.

A. Thomas Becket lived and died in the 1100's. In his 20's he became a clerk-secretary for an Archbishop of Canterbury who sent him to study church law on the continent and ordained him a Deacon. The young King Henry II, although 12 years younger than Thomas, took him into the palace family, shared sports and alleged wild escapades with him and made him Chancellor of the kingdom when he was only 36. Scholars say Thomas' personal purity was never questioned when he was the King's companion and that his speech and conduct were exceptional for those times. Although previously a true worldlyling in most ways, Thomas went through great moral and spiritual change when he was consecrated Archbishop. His prayer-life, fasting, self-discipline and pastoral care for his diocese in south-eastern England are praised by all his biographers. He was killed in his cathedral of Canterbury as the picture showed for opposing the King and defending church rights-over-properties and in execution of law. He was declared a Saint of the Church, as a martyr, in 1173, two years after his death. This St. Thomas is the patron of Rochester's seminary, Becket Hall.

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