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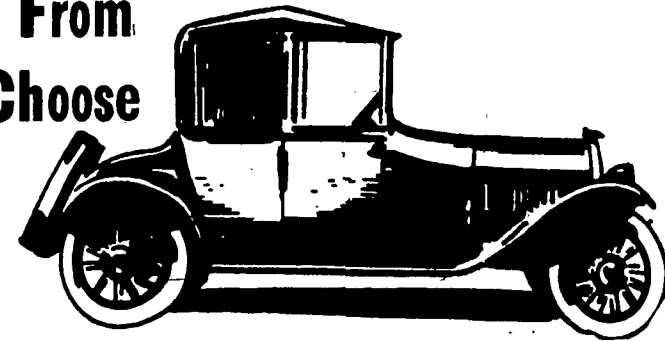


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Our Catholic Colleges Face Exciting Future

Nazareth, Fisher Plan to Preserve Individual Identity

By ARTHUR P. FARREN, Associate Editor, Courier-Journal

As Catholics of Rochester Diocese review the accomplishments of 100 years of diocesan history, they are justifiably proud of the progress of their two institutions of lay higher education — Nazareth College for women and St. John Fisher College for men.

The day is approaching — perhaps rapidly — when the two colleges will be spoken of as one.

In fact, it is more than just idle conjecture to suggest that most or all of the private colleges in the Rochester area may be working together and grouped into a Greater Rochester University.

If this were to come about, would or should the private colleges lose their identity?

"No," says the Very Rev. Charles J. Lavery, C.S.B., Ph.D., president of St. John Fisher. "I foresee an ultimate form of partnership, but I feel we must and will preserve autonomy and identity."

"No," says Sister Helen Daniel, S.S.J., Ph.D., president of Nazareth. "We truly hope we will always maintain many of our very worthwhile traditions."

Both the college heads are currently involved in a growing Nazareth-Fisher "cooperative plan" through which each school is increasingly sharing faculty, courses, libraries — and students.

Many of today's students can

contend, in reply to the question, "Where are you in college?" that "I attend Nazareth and Fisher," or vice versa.

Father Lavery and Sister Helen Daniel agree, however, that the future of the private college will depend very greatly on three factors:

1) an increase in federal and state aid, to lessen the "gap" between tuition income and the rising costs of education;

2) greater support from area business and industry, who are among the major benefactors of better educated citizens;

3) an increase in both foundation and individual gifts and bequests to the private colleges.

Father Lavery foresees no sudden change in education but "definite trends toward less rigid structure and greater inclination toward independent study." Among reasons, he noted, will be more widespread use of electronics and television.

He also anticipates "continuing adult education." Too many persons, he said, regard a college degree as "a license to go to work," and don't feel impelled to continue learning beyond that stage. More of them will realize, he added, that you "just can't coast" after attaining the formal degree.

More adults will extend their learning processes after college days to assure continuance of

religion and culture and to maintain fruitfulness and productivity.

Among avenues of adult study, he said, might be such fields as urban problems, civic planning, anti-pollution efforts, genetics, and so forth, so that these adults may aid in solving these issues.

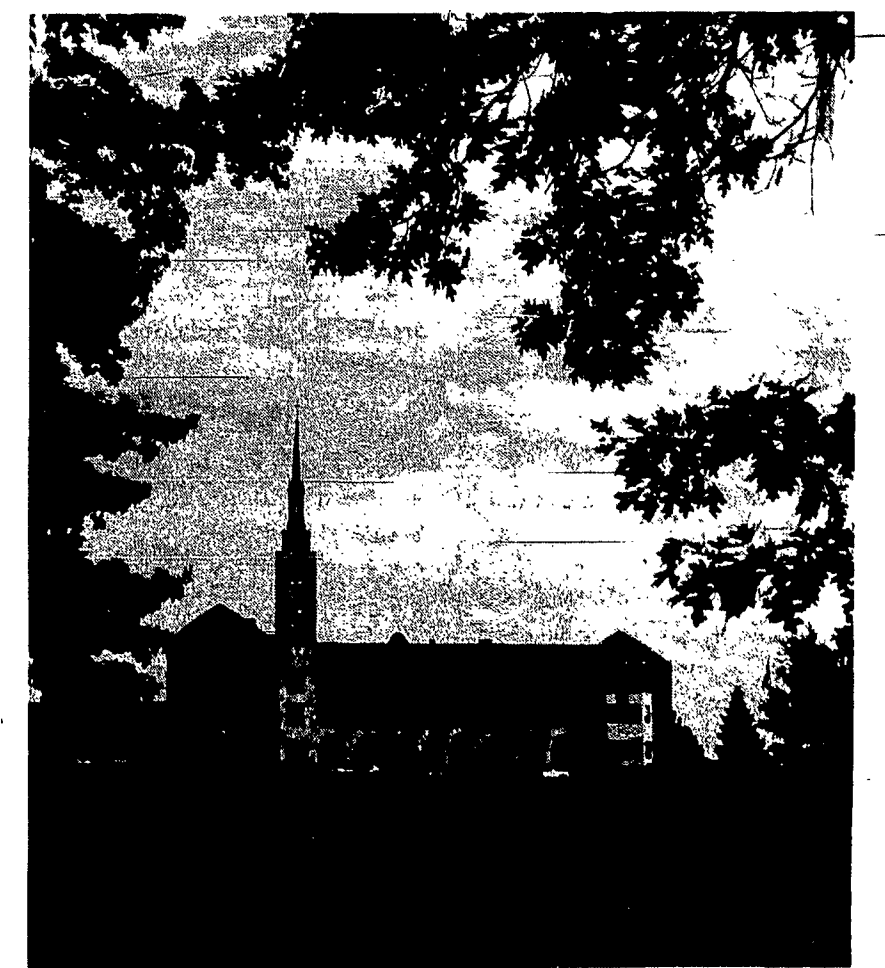
Sister Eva Marie, S.S.J., M.S., administrative assistant at Nazareth, also believes that private colleges, "which are performing a public function," will remain on the scene. There will be, however, many "changes in emphasis" in the college curricula.

Today, Rochester's Catholic colleges are educating about 2,800 young men and women on neighboring campuses that have grown continuously from modest beginnings.

Nazareth started in 1924 with 25 students, and moved to its 200 acres in Pittsford 18 years later with 205. In 1964, when a 10-year building program was initiated, there were 953 Nazareth girls, with 1,200 forecast for 1970.

The college has more than that now — 1,229 full-time students, plus 350 part-time. Of the latter, 135 are Fisher men.

Sister Teresa Marie O'Connor, dean for many years, is spoken of as the foundress of Nazareth College — the one who organized the project. She



Imposing Administration Building, St. John Fisher College

worked under the direction of the first president, Mother Sylvester Tindall.

The growth of St. John Fisher has been even more spectacular. The first class of 110 entered in 1951. Development plans outlined in 1962 looked to 1,500 by 1970.

This year there are 1,227 students, including 77 who come over from Nazareth and four

other part-time students. Also included are 82 seminarians who live adjoining the campus, at Becket Hall, and the 18 Basilian scholastics who have their own campus house.

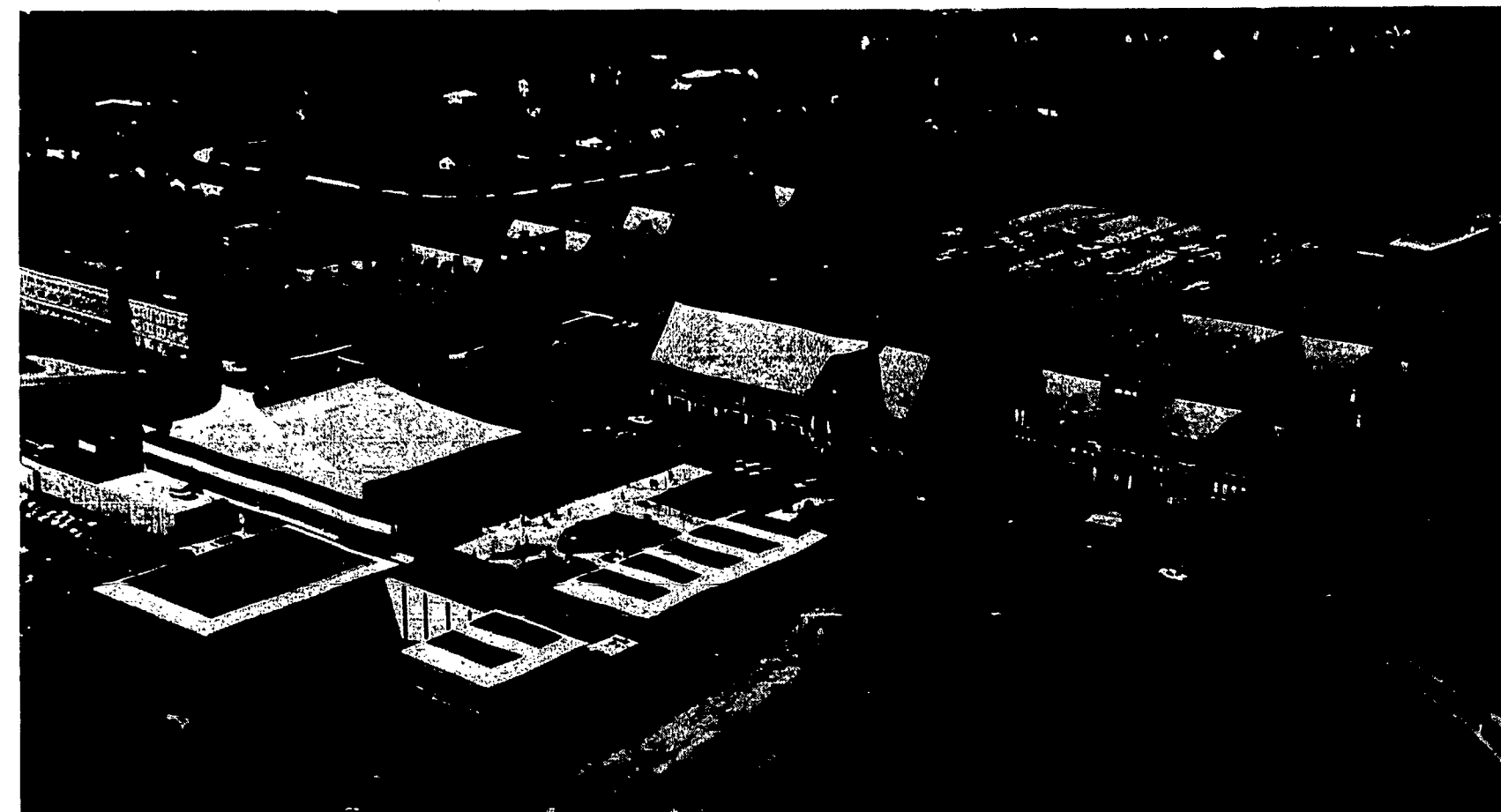
Buildings to serve these burgeoning populations have been rising steadily. The original facilities at Nazareth were housed in three connected buildings. A 100-volume library was opened in 1957 and two dormitories have been added.

The building program calls for construction of a perimeter road, and a fourth dormitory, an administration building and a chapel.

The most impressive recent community achievement is the Arts Center which not only provides classrooms, workshops and studios, but also offers Rochester almost continuous cultural entertainment, in concerts, plays and art exhibits.

Fisher in its third year added a wing to the first all-purpose building, and by the end of the fifties had a separate chemistry hall.

Then came a dormitory, the athletic center and St. Basil Hall, for classrooms, offices and auditorium. The past three years have seen completion of two more dormitories and a science building.



Nazareth College complex on East Avenue — new Arts Centers stands out at lower left in photo

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