

King's Prep: A Fresh Look at a Pioneer Institution

In light of Bishop Hogan's proposal last week for "new dimensions" at King's Prep and because of some apparent public misunderstanding on the school's nature and purposes, Franklin L. Kamp, dean of studies, has written the following article on the school and its aims.

Last week at a meeting of Catholic secondary school principals, Bishop Hogan strongly affirmed his belief in the cause of Catholic education in the diocese and suggested that King's Prep "take on new dimensions for pioneering in educational experimentation." In effect, the school might serve as an innovative center for testing new ideas and projects in cooperative ventures with other sectors of the diocesan educational community.

Attention was thus called to an institution with both a short and long-term history.

In May of 1967, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen decided to close St. Andrew's Seminary, which had been the high school department of the diocese's seminary system. The school, on Buffalo Road in Gates, was to be transformed into King's Prep, a co-educational college preparatory school with the goal of training young men and women for dedicated service to God, humanity, and the Church, whether it be in the religious or lay apostolate.

In the past 2½ years — in a

quiet fashion — King's has been developing a series of unusual academic programs, many of them radical innovations in secondary education. As explained by Father Emmett J. Halloran, principal, "We saw that the initial challenge in forming a new scholastic program was first to enter into new educational trends. Weeks and months of intensive searching, with workshops, discussions, visits to other schools, and contacts with professional educators convinced our faculty that we had a special opportunity to develop a large number of academic innovations."

King's is now thoroughly involved in experimentation. It is a non-graded school, utilizing an educational philosophy that de-emphasizes age and grade levels and gives students opportunities to work and to advance in their subjects at varying rates of acceleration.

A three-part phasing system allows students to choose more challenging levels of speed or depth beyond basic college preparatory work. Within the framework of a trimester year, the school also operates under a modular scheduling structure, thus affording a higher degree of flexibility in the utilization of time for course programming.

There are independent study projects, college-level advanced placement courses in four subject areas, and a number of specialized upper-year electives. Going beyond previous depart-



Senior physics students discuss unit plan assignment with Louis Reinagel, instructor.

mental team-teaching efforts, attempts are being made this year toward coordinating interdisciplinary approaches whereby selected themes might be studied across several subject areas.

Many teachers at King's employ "unit plans" in their

courses. These can generally be described as self-contained assignment projects which encourage students to direct themselves more responsibly and creatively in achieving specific learning objectives. For several years the Science Department has combined the unit plan de-

vice with a form of "contract" whereby students agree in advance to engage in particular amounts of work for the grades desired.

Unique to King's is an idea called "D-Day", whereby whole school days are set aside for special learning experiences

both in and out of the school setting and not always possible in the regular schedule. During the latest D-Day, Nov. 26, the entire student body entered into a simulated situation involving inter-actions and tensions in a make-believe middle class community.

This year, under the direction of Father Lawrence Murphy, King's added still another innovation — a broader-based, less centralized guidance department, utilizing most of the school's faculty members as advisers for small-size student counseling groups.

Also new this year has been the great participation of King's students in the whole process of academic evaluation. Each student is involved in ongoing reviews of his or her progress, even to the point of suggesting suitable grades. There are remarkable degrees of frankness, and often much more complete dimensions of evaluation become available to teacher and parents.

There seem to be few limits on the possibilities for future growth and innovation at King's. Sister Joseph Mary, the school's English department chairman, is a Mercy Sister who joined the faculty in the last years of St. Andrew's existence. In commenting on the transitional changes she has witnessed, Sister remarked, "Perhaps the most vital characteristic of King's Prep is that it is such a living and growing in-

stitution — always responsive to new and better means of making an educational contribution."

Prior to Bishop Hogan's proposal, internal discussion was already under way to evaluate present programs and consider future direction. A mid-summer visit to the State Education Department in Albany was most encouraging as indications of interest and approbation were expressed by department representatives.

Particular enthusiasm has also been generated for a totally new science curriculum project being developed by Father Bernard G. Goss, Science Department chairman now on a one-year sabbatical as a doctoral candidate at Syracuse University. Central consideration however has been given to the manner wherein the goals of the school might be made more continually visible in a kind of climate that could best allow for constant reflection and re-direction. The production of a formal philosophy statement was one major step toward attaining it, and this will be discussed in a future Courier-Journal article.

Now, to Father Halloran and the faculty, the proposed added role of institutional leadership is eagerly accepted and embraced as a new challenge. King's Prep, as many another Catholic school today, is good proof that Catholic education is alive and well and responsive to the times.

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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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Bishop Greets Elmira Couple

Bishop Hogan greets Judge Daniel J. Donohoe of Chemung County Family Court and Mrs. Donohoe following Mass Jan. 11 in St. Mary's Church, Elmira. The Bishop has been celebrating Mass and preaching in various diocesan communities over the last few weeks.

Blessed Sacrament Elects Council

Blessed Sacrament of Rochester has elected 12 members of its parish to its first parish council. It was announced by Father John P. Norris, pastor.

Following 8 months of preparation by a steering committee, parishioners received their ballots by mail and returned them at Masses last Sunday. An organizational meeting is scheduled for Feb. 9.

Elected to three-year terms were Dr. John Abbott; Arthur

Moral Aspects Of Social Ills To Be Topic

Moral aspects of social problems are being examined in a 10-week adult education program which began Thursday night, Jan. 22, in Greece Olympia High School, Maiden Lane.

Sessions, sponsored by the Greece Central School District, will be held Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. through Mar. 26. Assisting in planning the course were Father William Amann, assistant at Our Mother of Sorrows Church.

Teachers are Father Robert O'Halloran, C.S.B., of Aduinas Institute; Father Giovanni Montanari of St. Bernard's Seminary; and the Rev. Francis Pemberton, professor of social ethics and the sociology of religion at Colgate-Bexley Divinity School.

A similar series, just completed under the sponsorship of the Greece Pastors' Association, attracted an average attendance of 85 to 75. Participating were Father O'Halloran, the Rev. John Wynn of Colgate-Bexley, Dr. Gerald Cogerinot, RIT professor Thomas O'Brien and attorney Dennis Livadis.

Bishop's Brother

William J. Kearney Succumbs at 82

Mass for repose of the soul of William J. Kearney, 82, brother of Bishop James E. Kearney, was celebrated by Bishop Kearney Monday morning in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Mr. Kearney died Jan. 15, 1970, in St. Ann's Home. Born in Philadelphia March 12, 1887, he was a life resident of New York City until his retirement in 1968, when he moved to Rochester to live with Bishop Kearney. He entered St. Ann's Home in March of last year.

Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Besides his brother, Mr. Kearney, a bachelor, is survived by a nephew, Donald Kearney, of New York. Another brother, Leo I. Kearney, died in New York at the age of 83.

Assisting Bishop Kearney at the funeral Mass were Father James Moynihan, diocesan chancellor, and Msgr. Charles Boyle, pastor of St. John the Evangelist's Church. Bishop Hogan gave the homily and absolution.

Noting that Mr. Kearney had been a daily communicant since his college days, Bishop Hogan said that in his everyday living "he portrayed everything he believed in and provided a constant example of the strong faith that was his."

Mr. Kearney was a graduate of Fordham Law School. He began studies for the priesthood, but was forced to discontinue because of an eye injury suffered in a childhood accident.

After limited service in the Army in World War I, he entered real estate law practice in New York. He was a life parishioner of St. Agnes Church there.

Declaring that he and his brother had had a close relationship all through the years, Bishop Kearney said he was pleased that his brother could be with him in Rochester before his death.

The Bishop recalled that his brother was a classmate at Fordham and a close

Red Cross Seeks Social Volunteers

Men and women who can help make a social life for mental patients are being sought by the Red Cross.

Mrs. William T. Harper, in charge of this volunteer activity, suggested that it might appeal to retired people. Help is needed especially for Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 3 at Rochester State Hospital, she said.

Interviewing will begin Monday, Jan. 26, at Red Cross Headquarters, 50 Prince St.

Fr. Rosen to Talk At Good Shepherd

Father Cypryan Rosen, OFM, Cap., will present "A Contemporary View of Penance" in a Sunday night lecture at Good Shepherd School, 3264 E. Henrietta.

The public lecture, at 8:45 p.m. Jan. 25, was arranged by the Christian Opportunity Committee of the parish. The speaker is co-director of the diocesan adult theology program.

friend of the late Francis Cardinal Spellman.

"Bill called on the Cardinal while the latter was confined to the hospital shortly before his death in 1967," the Bishop said. "The Cardinal told him that instead of going to Korea on that particular Christmas, he would be taking a much longer journey."



Bishop Addresses High School Principals

Bishop Hogan is pictured addressing meeting of principals of Catholic high schools in diocese Jan. 13 at Cardinal Mooney High School, during which Bishop proposed "new dimensions" for King's Preparatory High School in field of "educational experimentation." Sharing microphone were Father Emmett Halloran (seated right), rector of King's Prep, and Father Daniel Brent (at Bishop's left, back to camera), diocesan superintendent of schools. Next principals' meeting is slated Mar. 10 at Bishop Kearney High School.

Adult Education Course Planned In Northwest

Second in a series of adult education courses is scheduled for February by 15 churches associated with Rochester's Northwest Ecumenical Ministry.

"What the Churches Can Do About Community Issues" will be the theme for Tuesday night meetings slated Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24, at an area church to be announced. Handling arrangements is the Rev. Robert Booher of Christ Presbyterian Church.

The first course was a weekend meeting attended by 65 persons at the Cenacle Retreat House, East Avenue. A third course is scheduled in March, to be conducted by the Rochester Urban Ministry.

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