

Seminary: No Ivory Tower Amid Social Unrest

By ALEX MacDONALD

Social concerns which agitate U.S. collegians are just as deeply felt at St. Bernard's Seminary as on any secular campus.

Some questions asked there this week in the throes of the national collegiate uprising over the war proved that today's seminarians do not live in any traditional ivory tower of indifference to the secular world.

"Men coming to the seminary", said Father Joseph P. Brennan, St. Bernard's rector, "are very much part of their times. They are post-college in age but very much attuned to the college generation.

"Every issue which grips collegians outside touches the seminary world as well."

Students and faculty admit that only 15 to 20 of the 110 seminarians are "real militants" on social issues. "The students keep up with all the news and many read widely on these subjects," one professor said, "but the number of activists varies from issue to issue."

Early in the Fall semester a student-faculty committee began arranging monthly projects related to social concerns. Fathers Patrick Logan and Edward Metzger and seven seminarians directed study-and-action programs touching on peace, the draft, poverty and welfare rights.

In November a dozen students went to Washington for a national anti-war rally while others participated in a Rochester demonstration. In December

the seminarians arranged and promoted a Prayer Service for Peace at Sacred Heart Cathedral, where Bishop Hogan presided and nearly 500 people participated.

More than two dozen students have regularly gone out to participate in Rochester-area peace demonstrations. In Holy Week they stood on downtown street corners and distributed 2,000 reprints of a peace-statement signed by diocesan priests.

"These activities are strictly voluntary and personal, permitted as extra-curricular interests but not programmed in our curriculum," Father Brennan said. Permission to leave the seminary grounds (except overnight), he explained is not required when the student is not expected to be in class.

He described seminary courses relevant to social inquiry which are titled "Christian Social Ethics" (for all 2nd year men), and electives like "Political Philosophy of Current Protest Movements" and "Mission for America", a theological investigation of the role of the U.S. in domestic and foreign issues.

Occasional lectures at the seminary on social causes by lay-visitors and days of voluntary fasting and prayer permit less-public sharing of concern for the world's troubles.

Father Edwin Metzger, describing the "field education program", required of all students for three of their four years at St. Bernard's, said that the students carry 8 hours of "agency or teaching-church

(parish) work" or 4 hours of practice-teaching (parochial catechetics) every week plus their 15 class hours in the seminary.

"Although we encourage the seminarians to try for a more risky role in the community, questioning the existing order, testing for themselves, alternatives to the status quo, their curriculum duties do not leave much time. They have to be quite selective in what enthusiasms they take up outside," he said.

The apostolate of serving others gets a broad treatment in social or welfare agency work which the seminarians like. Such diverse appointments as the following occupy several students apiece for 8 hours a week for a whole school year:

Monroe County Penitentiary, Association for the Blind, Genesee and Charles House settlement centers, Catholic Family Center, De Paul Clinic, St. Ann's Home, State Hospital, Holy Childhood School and a dozen others.

Like every community St. Bernard's admits of a "silent majority" but regular informal meetings of the whole school, faculty and students, provoke general discussion of troubles of the outside world as well as "house issues."

The gatherings, held about once a month, are titled "Role Call", because they often develop into discussion of the school's relationship to social issues and the role of the seminarian in modern times.

Last Fall when some students thought the seminary should participate in national moratorium protesting the Viet Nam war, Role Call debated the validity of the school taking a public stance on the issue.

It was democratically decided that the seminary as a community should not take a political position because "an official stand might not be fair to the minority."

In his description of the modern seminarian, Father Brennan said the average student is a non-conformist, impatient about irrelevant matters, more willing to get involved in social issues than students of 10 years ago.

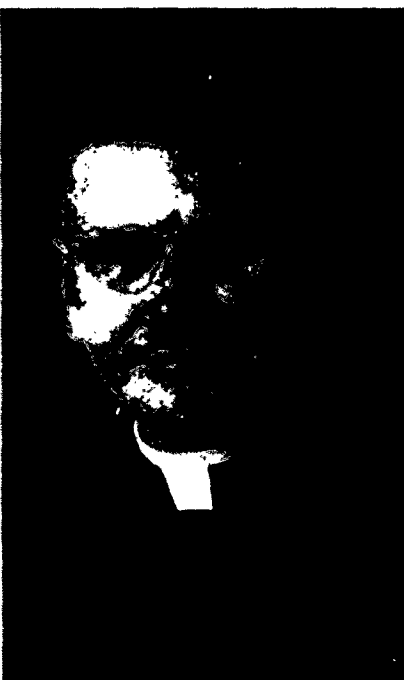
"Anyone who seems to be negative, narrow-minded, inhibited or lacking in vision or enthusiasm will turn him off", the rector said.



Stricken by announcement May 8 at a meeting of parents that Mt. Carmel High School in Auburn will be closed, students — some in tears — appealed for continuance of the area's only Catholic secondary school.

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER



MSGR. ROBERT KELEHER



FR. JOHN BAKSYS



FR. WILLIAM HAYES

3 Priests Note Golden Jubilees

Three Rochester diocesan clergymen will mark 50 years in the priesthood next week.

They are Msgr. Robert A. Keleher, pastor emeritus of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Greece; Father J. M. Baksys, pastor emeritus of St. George Church, Rochester, and Father William E. Hayes, former chaplain of the Dominican Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary in Elmira, who still resides there.

They were ordained May 29, 1920, in old St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester, by Bishop John Grimes of Syracuse.

Msgr. Keleher will concelebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving with Bishop Hogan at 12:15 p.m. Sunday, May 24, in St. Charles Church. Bishop James E. Kearney will be in the sanctuary. A reception is slated from 3 to 4:30 in the school auditorium.

The golden jubilarian will celebrate his anniversary Mass at 11:30 a.m. Friday, May 29.

Concelebrants will be former assistants of the parish.

Born in Shortsville, Msgr. Keleher attended the public grammar and high school there, and studied for the priesthood at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries.

He served as assistant at parishes in Hornell and Rochester before being appointed pastor of St. Charles Church on June 17, 1939. Bishop Kearney named him a diocesan consultant Sept. 18, 1962, and Pope John XXIII elevated him to the rank of domestic prelate in December of that year. He was named pastor emeritus June 27, 1968.

Father Baksys will celebrate Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 7, in St. George Church. A dinner and reception are scheduled at 5 p.m. in Alfredo's Restaurant, 4370 Dewey Ave.

A native of Lithuania, Father Baksys completed studies for the priesthood at St. Bernard's Seminary. He served as an as-

sistant pastor in Waterbury, Conn., and as pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Hartford, Conn., before being incardinated in the Rochester Diocese July 16, 1931, as pastor of St. George Church.

During his pastorate he and his parishioners sent aid to friends in Communist-dominated Lithuania and helped bring some 500 refugees to the U.S. He was named pastor emeritus Jan. 25, 1956.

Father Hayes was born in Rochester, and attended St. Augustine and Holy Apostles Schools and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries.

He served as assistant pastor at parishes in Auburn, Rochester, Penn Yan, Dundee and Corning before being named pastor of Holy Angels Church, Nunda, and Holy Name, Groveland, in 1934. He was appointed pastor of St. Anthony's, Groton, in 1940, resigned June 27, 1961, and was named chaplain at the Elmira monastery. He retired from that post in 1967.

Mt. Carmel Closing Holds, Bishop Says

(Continued from Page 1A)

returned to their source of origin, the parishes of Auburn."

Bishop Hogan expressly asked that the funds returned to the parishes "be used exclusively for the religious education of the youth of Auburn, the motive that inspired the original giving."

The possibility of the Carmelite Fathers remaining in the diocese for parochial and educational work after they close the high school was a bright note in the announcement.

"The Carmelite Fathers have responded favorably to the invitation of the Bishop to offer their services to the Diocese in accordance with their talents and the needs of the Diocese", the statement said. The Pastoral Office had no further word about the use of the 12 priests and 5 Brothers who comprise the Carmelite faculty except that the religious men "wanted to maintain some sort of community wherever they worked."

The statement indicated that after appraisal of the Mt. Carmel properties the distribution negotiations would be jointly conducted by "appointed representatives of the clergy and laity from the Auburn parishes, the Carmelite Fathers, and the Legal and Financial Advisory Board of the Diocese".

The diocesan Office of Confraternity of Christian Doctrine has assured the Bishop that it will move into the vacuum caused by the school's closing and "will expend every effort to organize and coordinate a worthy program of religious education for all the youth of the Auburn parishes."

Consolidation of all Catholic elementary schools with Mt. Carmel, under the direction of

a professional administrator, was one of the proposals made in Auburn last week.

Spearheading the effort was the school's Alumni Association, which at a special meeting May 12 adopted a resolution declaring:

"All the Catholic schools in Cayuga County, including Mt. Carmel High School, be immediately consolidated and run by one professional, and that the Carmelite Fathers be immediately offered a new contract to staff Mt. Carmel High School."

The consolidation was expected to mean transferring students from one school to another to provide adequate class numbers. Responsibility for supporting the system would be shared by each parish on a ratio basis.

Facing the challenge that enrollment was a principal factor in the decision to close Mt. Carmel, priests, parents and students have been appealing for greater student registration. While full results were not available, it was reported that their efforts had brought potential enrollment to more than 650 students, including some non-Catholic youngsters.

Announcement that the school would be closed was made to parents and students May 8 by the Very Rev. Lawrence J. Mooney, O. Carm., of New York City, prior of the order's New York Providence. He termed the decision "irrevocable."

He explained that while finances were a problem "all the answers focus on the situation of student enrollment."

Nearly 700 boys and girls currently attend Mt. Carmel, which is staffed by 17 Carmelite priests and brothers, 15 Sisters of St. Joseph and five lay teachers.