



Father Robert F. McNamara, professor of church history who has been on St. Bernard's Seminary faculty since 1938, takes a stroll between classes.



Among visiting professors at St. Bernard's is Douglas Hyde (right), former leader of British Communist Party and spirited convert to Catholicism.



Seminarian Ed Palumbos (right) sits in on staff meeting at DePaul Clinic of Catholic Family Center with (from left) Gerald Pashby, director of social work, and Mrs. Lillian Mooney and James Mroczek, staff workers.



Two students discuss "Black Suffering" with inmates Penitentiary.

NEW WINDS THROUGH OLD WI

There's a new wind blowing through the old windows of the "Rock." That's the affectionate name that 2,500 priests and 19 bishops gave their alma mater, Rochester's St. Bernard's Seminary.

As many of them gather this week for their annual reunion they're going to encounter some bracing and exciting new winds ripping down the corridors, whose silence, once upon a time, was marred only by the slow shuffle of men in quiet prayer.

Shall what's happening to seminaries be called an evolution, a revolution or a different life-style?

Take your pick and you'll be right, according to Carl Balcerak, director of publications for the National Catholic Educational Association, in an article in the August "Columbia" magazine.

Sweeping changes are occurring in seminaries throughout the country—academically, structurally, pastorally, ecumenically, in faculty and in faculty-student relationships. Students participate in workshops on problems of drug addiction, alcoholism, unemployment, welfare recipients, housing, delinquency and racial tension. They're getting "relevant."

Students at St. Bernard's combine academic pursuits with "field work" with various governmental, civic and inner-city agencies. By decision of their respective bishops, some students, including those from Rochester and Syracuse Dioceses, are required to complete three months of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at an approved center. For the first time in the 77-year history of the seminary, ordinations are being deferred while fourth-year theology graduates engage in a deaconship program with agencies or in parish work. Separate ordinations will occur next spring.

St. Bernard's now confers bachelor of divinity degrees at the end of third year theology, and master of theology at the end of fourth year. The seminary also is incorporated with Colgate-Rochester Divinity School/Bexley Hall in the Rochester Center for Theological Studies—an "integration consortium" undertaken for ecumenical as well as practical reasons which will not interfere with the "identity" of the constituent schools. It involves some interchanges of faculty, students, resource materials, and so forth, and a working together on some community projects.

St. Bernard's currently has 92 resident seminarians, a number of non-seminarians taking courses, and three students from Colgate/Bexley are residing there.

On the faculty are seven Rochester diocesan priests, two out-of-diocese secular priests, two Capuchin Fathers, two Jesuits and a Father of the Sacred Hearts. Also on the resident faculty is one layman. Teaching part-time are three Rochester priests, two laymen and a member of the Colgate/Bexley faculty. The lay staff includes six clerical workers, nine maintenance crew, and five full-time and ten part-time cafeteria-workers.

Students are from the Dioceses of Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, Bridgeport, Camden, Ogdensburg, Providence, Worcester, and Cumana, Venezuela. Also studying are men from the Capuchin Fathers, the Society of the Precious Blood, and the Order of the Fathers of Mercy.

Living at the seminary are two retired Rochester priests, a Rochester priest involved in other activities, and a Spanish Jesuit teaching at the University of Rochester.

Of the more than 4,200 students enrolled at St. Bernard's in its nearly eight decades, more than 2,500 were ordained to the priesthood, and 19 became bishops.