

St. Bernard's Seminary Accredited by National Unit

St. Bernard's Seminary, which for the last two years has been re-evaluating and revitalizing its program, last month became the first diocesan seminary in the state to be fully accredited by the American Association of Theological Schools.

Early in November a team from the AATS visited the seminary for several days, later voting to recommend its admission to the association. Commenting on the report, Father Joseph P. Brennan, rector of the seminary, declared:

"We were particularly pleased that not even one notation (indication of areas in which the Seminary might be considered to fall short of AATS standards) was attached to the commission's recommendation."

One of the principal factors in the seminary's preparation for accreditation was a 132-page mimeographed "Self-Study of St. Bernard's Seminary" produced by the faculty and students.

In the introduction, Father David H. Murphy, the seminary's vice rector and dean of studies, noted that nearly 50 faculty and students worked on the study from February 1969, to October 1970. It follows the divisions and uses the questions of the AATS Guide for Institutional Self Study. Besides a table of seminary organization, it includes:

Purposes and Objectives, Faculty, Curriculum, Instruction, Relationship to Other Schools, Library, Student Services, Organization and Administration,



A Young Elder

Pert Ann Muilenberg, 19, smiles after becoming elected the youngest elder ever elected to help govern the La Jolla Presbyterian church in La Jolla, Calif. A co-ed at the University of California in San Diego, Ann hopes to bring young and old closer together on social issues. President Nixon has worshipped twice at the church. (RNS)

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Indicative of the wide range of change occurring at the seminary is the answer to one of the hundreds of questions covered in the Study.

Q. What new factors, tendencies or changed conditions are affecting the character of the student body?

A. The documents of Vatican II have supplied many new ideas which have greatly affected the student body. In addition, the urban crisis, the concern for the black, the emphasis on the extension of physical help toward those in need, the participation of students in the government of the school, a Student Council actively functioning, the possibility of a student constitution, several committee meetings of students and faculty, a closer relationship between the students and the faculty members from varied backgrounds and countries, the Faculty Advisor Program, the new factors in the growth of the Rochester Center for Theological Studies, the residence among our students of ministerial students of other faiths, the Clinical Pastoral Education and Deacon Internship programs have affected the character of the student body. Most recently the faculty has presented to the students a unanimous request that they be admitted with a voting capacity into official faculty meetings not involved with evaluation of students.

In answer to another question on student activity, the reply was:

"Participation of our seminarians in several forms of social service is not only of educational value to the students themselves but is helpful, we hope, to the agencies. Furthermore, a number of 'out-going' and ecumenical activities are also a contribution to the community of metropolitan Rochester."

St. Bernard's now awards degrees of bachelor of divinity and master of theology.

Among many facets of progress has been the pastoral training program. This involves "field education" for students, who work with some community agency or group during certain periods of time; the

Clinical Pastoral Education summer course which many students take; and the one-year deaconship which graduates undergo prior to ordination. The latter work is in parishes or with agencies.

St. Bernard's has entrusted the pastoral training program to one fulltime professor—Father Edwin B. Metzger. It apparently may be the first Catholic seminary to have done so.

Variety in faculty expertise has been attained through a recent practice of inviting guest professors of different faiths—Catholic, Protestant and Jewish—who reside at the seminary for several weeks or months.

Courses at the seminary have also been made available, and will be increasingly so, to students of the Rochester Center for Theological Studies and to other adjunct students, women as well as men.

Bishop Endorses NCCW Program

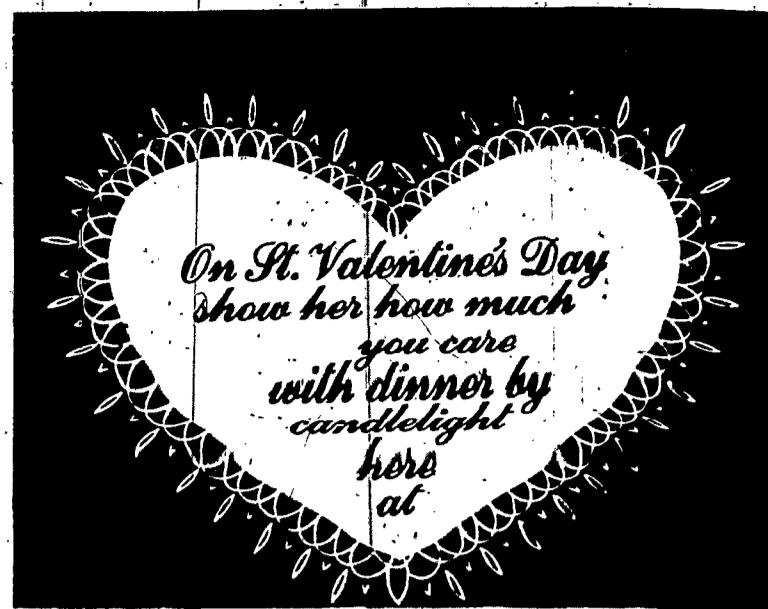
In a recent letter, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, urged all pastors in the diocese to promote a program aimed at developing leadership potentials in laywomen.

The program, titled "Fashion Me a Person, an Experience in Creative Living," is slated to be held in three "institutes" at the Cenacle Retreat House, 693 East Ave., Rochester, March 6-14.

Designed by the staff of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) and consultants from the University of Maryland Conferences and Institutes Division, the program is described as an "experience—centered learning program to help a woman realize her full potential as a person and as a member of a group."

"We would encourage you to sponsor representation from your parish," the bishop wrote the pastors. "If you are not able to meet the expenses this office will assume the cost."

The NCCW-staffed program will cost \$30 per person for each institute. Reservations must be made by Sunday, Feb. 28, through the Cenacle.



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