

'Because You Believe'

Donnelly drinks
of Christ.
Monroe Com-
director of
chapter, his
constantly
in spare mo-
he has the
priest will
ge cafeteria
tle clusters
s gathered

an inner experience of religious
significance. "Their confusion,"
he said, "reflects the confusion
of the time." Yet at the casual,
open discussions he has devel-
oped in an apartment across
East Henrietta Road, opposite
the college, the students seek
concrete answers to their
"search for" meaning in their
own lives."

Father Donnelly realized
early that many students had
an ambivalent attitude toward
his role on campus, yet he sees
in this a hopeful sign. Shortly
after he arrived, he recalls, one
young man approached him with
the statement, "It's important
that you're here." Asked why
he made that remark, the stu-
dent explained to the new chap-
lain, "Because you believe. Both
myself and my friends can't.
Seeing you here with us gives
us hope that we can some day
believe again."

Father Donnelly hopes next

year to establish a regular cen-
ter for the Newman Club in the
College Complex Apartments
across the road from the Com-
munity College. Now he oper-
ates out of the Student Activi-
ties Office and borrows the use
of Emanuel United Church of
Christ for Mass and the other
services he conducts for the
Catholic students.

He tries especially to bring
the Catholic students into a
situation where they will ex-
perience the Church as a real
event in their lives. As he re-
flects on his situation, this
priest sees some wry humor in
the importance he attaches to
his ministry. "After all," he
points out, "each of us thinks
our own work is the most im-
portant." At the same time he
quickly points out that the fu-
ture core of Rochester parishes
now attends the Community
College.

The counseling and religious

duties expected of a chaplain
necessarily take up a large part
of Father Donnelly's time. His
14-hour days express a convic-
tion that before these formal
encounters can mean anything,
he must share in the experi-
ences of the students.

With regard to a college
chaplain's role in the church
and in society, Father Donnelly
remarked that, "A college chap-
lain has the opportunity to be
as irresponsible as anyone, but
to imply that this is wide-
spread is potentially harmful.
It is to dismiss a priest's work
just because he deals with
youth."

Such questions do not take
up much of Father Donnelly's
time. He is more likely to be
found discussing State Univer-
sity budget problems with a
group of students, or telling a
youth where he can find out
more about his problems with
the draft.

