



St. Bernard's Graduation

At the third annual Academic Convocation Aug. 12 twenty-four students from St. Bernard's received B.D. degrees following a concelebrated Mass by the faculty. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan is shown, above, listening to Father Robert F. McNamara address the graduates, who included the first woman to graduate from the seminary, Sister M. Gratia L'Esperance, RSM, shown right being congratulated by Bishop Hogan.



U.S. Tax Credit Program Held Not Same as Ohio Plan

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A U.S. Catholic Conference spokesman said here that the U.S. Supreme Court ruling against Ohio's tuition reimbursement plan for parents of non-public school children in Ohio will have "no direct bearing" on the constitutionality of educational tax credits.

Acknowledging that the court's action was "disappointing," Dr. Edward D'Alessio, director of the Elementary and Secondary Education Division of the USCC, said that unlike the Ohio program, income tax credits "do not involve a direct payment by government."

"Instead," he added, "under tax credits the government merely refrains from collecting income tax from parents in an amount equal to part of their non-public school tuition costs."

The Supreme Court, in an 8-to-1 ruling, upheld a district federal court which declared that the Ohio reimbursement plan was unconstitutional. The three-judge panel said: "The Ohio plan contains the seeds for increased political involvement along religious lines at every

level of government... This, of course, is the ultimate evil to be protected against by the religious clauses (of the First Amendment)."

Dr. D'Alessio pointed out that tax credits, whether, state or federal, are significantly different from the Ohio plan — "a fact implicitly recognized by the U.S. District Court for southern New York which on Oct. 2 ruled in favor of a New York tax credit law."

He quoted the New York federal court as saying that the tax credit approach "does not sponsor or render forbidden support to church schools."

The Catholic education spokesman also pointed out that earlier this year, a state court in

Minnesota gave "emphatic approval" to a Minnesota tax credit law now in effect there.

"Educational tax credits," said Dr. D'Alessio, "deserve consideration on their own merits. In the opinion of well-qualified people, they represent a viable and entirely constitutional way of giving a break to parents who besides paying to send their children to non-public schools also carry their full share of the burden of tax support for public education."

He said the recent action of the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee approving a federal tax credit bill "is a hopeful sign that this approach to equity in education will soon receive the hearing it deserves."

CYO Convention Set Next Week

More than 200 youths and adult advisors representing the New York State federation of the CYO, will assemble in Rochester, Oct. 27-29 for the 18th annual NYS CYO Convention.

Five past directors of the CYO will be honored at the opening banquet and elections for federation offices will be held.

The theme of the convention is Commitment to Life and four

workshops on abortion, war, pollution and apathy will be held the following day.

A concelebrated Mass will be said on the closing day of the convention. Msgr. Thomas J. Leonard, national director of the group, will install new officers at the Mass.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will be the guest speaker at the closing meeting of the convention.

New Self-Help Grants Top One Million

More than a million dollars have been granted lately to self-help poverty programs across the country by the national Human Development Campaign, it was announced last week as the 1972 drive was launched.

The campaign, established by the Church in 1970 as an education/action program to make

America more aware of the realities of poverty, provides alternatives by granting funds to self-help projects.

The Rochester diocese received a grant of \$42,700 for Housing Renovation and Manpower Development in Auburn. The project will provide housing and also offer unemployed men a skill.

Wednesday, October 18, 1972

Flood Relief Gifts Presented

Office of Human Development flood relief coordinators in Elmira and Corning are receiving a total of \$32,000 from the Rochester Catholic and Episcopal dioceses.

Awarding of the grants was scheduled yesterday simultaneously in the two cities hit hard by the June floods. Father Henry Adamski, regional coordinator for the Catholic Diocese was to present \$11,000 to Frank Patterson, Elmira project coordinator. The money is from the Bishop's Southern Tier Relief Fund.

At the same time in Corning, Father Peter Bayer and Tom Woods, coordinators of OHD

recovery efforts there, were to receive a total of \$21,000, the combined gift of the two dioceses. Father Eugene Emo, regional coordinator for the diocese in Livingston County, and Rev. Scott Harvin, rector of Christ Episcopal Church, made the presentations.

The money will be used to combine efforts in Operations Rebuild and Follow-Through. Rebuild matches needy families with organizations to assist them in rebuilding their homes. Follow-Through helps a needy individual acquire social services and counseling.

Archbishop Sheen to Offer Special Corning Mass

Corning — Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen will offer a special Mass of Thanksgiving Nov. 12 at St. Vincent de Paul Church here.

Archbishop Sheen will celebrate the 11 a.m. Mass at the church and preach the sermon.

St. Vincent's was severely damaged by the June 23 flood which smashed through the

Twin Tiers. The church has been undergoing massive rebuilding efforts in an attempt to return the parish to a normal condition.

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Pastors

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Rosary, and was assigned to Christ the King in June 1970.

Father Delmonte, of the St. Bernard's class of 1964, is an Auburn man. He was on the faculty of the former Kings Preparatory School, 1967-69, and before that was an assistant at Corpus Christi.

Father Brown was ordained in 1967 from St. Mary our Mother parish, Horseheads, and was assigned to Assumption parish in Fairport, before going to Auburn.

Father Miller, of the class of 1969, has been serving his first assignment at St. Ambrose. His home parish is St. Thomas the Apostle.

Father Hogan formerly was pastor of St. Bernard's Scipio Center, and its missions at Genoa and Fleming. He has been on leave since last June.

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