

A New Librarian . . . but with a Difference

By PAT PETRASKE

Although plans are in the offing to acquaint the diocese with the resources available at St. Bernard's Library, its new director, the Rev. Jasper G. Pennington, has been caught up in the physical problems of getting the library in shape for the fall.

"Word of mouth" has been the means used so far to encourage increased use of facilities, said Father Pennington, who has been focusing his attention on the weeding out and relocation of books as well as the direction of improvements, such as rewiring.

The youthful Episcopal deacon, who sports a full reddish beard, hopes to "get out among the religious personally to see what they are doing and how we can be of help." A newsletter of

fluorescent-lights have one third the wattage and eliminate shadows.

St. Bernard's Library encompassed only two rooms when the Seminary was founded in 1893 by Bishop Bernard McQuaid. Among his gifts were the Jesuit Relations, which contain information about the early missionaries among the Indians, and the Patrologiae of Greek and Latin texts in more than 200 volumes. In the 1930's, a donation by Father Edward Prendergast of more than 13,000 volumes expanded the collection, which now includes between 70,000 to 75,000 volumes. The task remains to convert the classification to the Library of Congress system.

Father Pennington came to St. Bernard's June 1. He attended Western Michigan University,

how the library operates on three levels. It maintains a relationship with the Rochester Center for Theological Studies and the Rochester Regional Research Center, which includes the libraries of local colleges and the public libraries.

"I'm currently concerned with the third level" which is a relationship with the diocese, explained the library director.

Audio-visual equipment can be borrowed as well as material obtained through the American Theological Libraries Association. Original editions of books by Archbishop Fulton Sheen, former bishop of Rochester, are shelved in one of the rare book rooms. Speeches made by Bishop Sheen since 1940 have been captured on 750 tapes, but many of the tapes are beginning to disintegrate, Father Pennington said.

The rare book collection is yet to be scrutinized, but Father Pennington was able to point out some of the classics that were printed in the 17th century. The library has a three-volume set of John Foxe's Book of Martyrs, first published in 1563. It was viewed as a "polemic" against Roman Catholicism and an apologetic for the Elizabethan Church according to the librarian. Father Pennington recalls reading the book when he was about 12 years old. "I remember all the gory details describing what they did at the Inquisitions. It was suppose to have been brought over to America with the Bible; the Puritans read it and used it as a bedside book," he shuddered.

Some of the rare books were printed on vellum and/or bound in leather. These books have received little care and Father



Pennington plans to have the leather books oiled to prevent cracking. The Courier Journal is kept on microfilm and the library is planning on subscribing to the microfilm Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper.

Father Pennington admits that the library has two major weak points, in the area of pastoral care and in the area of Protestant studies. He hopes the new book selections made by the faculty will help correct this deficiency.



Father Jasper Pennington explains library improvements.

acquisitions periodically is sent to the faculty of St. Bernard's and Colgate - Rochester/Bexley Hall/Crozer Center of theological studies. The mailing list may be expanded to include clergy of the diocese, Father Pennington said.

A major physical improvement will be an expansion of the main reading room, which will shift the periodicals into the adjacent former library office. Painted bright green and carpeted, this will be the current periodical reading room. The library has about 400 journal subscriptions.

Gone from the stacks are the old "hair-dryers" which, with their huge round 400-watt bulbs for illumination, used to "fry your head," said Father Pennington with a chuckle. The new

where he received his B.A. and M.S. in Library Science. His Master of Divinity was obtained from St. Luke's Seminary at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn.

"My academic interest is in American Church History, with a concentration on the Anglicans (Episcopalians), Quakers and Moravians," said Father Pennington, who will be ordained in the coming year. As a member of the Historiographers of the Episcopal Church, he will survey the Episcopal parishes in the Rochester diocese. One of his projects, near completion, is a bibliography and guide to the papers of the Presiding Bishops of the Episcopal Church, 1794-1964.

Father Pennington explained

Central Union Plans Meeting

The annual state meeting of the Catholic Central Union and its auxiliary, the National Catholic Women's Union, will take place in Rochester, Sept. 14-16.

The convention, the 78th for the Central Union and the 54th for the auxiliary, will open with registration Friday, Sept. 14 at the One Eleven East Avenue Hotel.

Special guests will include Joseph H. Cervais, a Rochesterian who is national president of the Catholic Central Union, Dr. Albert J. Sattler, Knight Commander of the Holy Sepulchre, and Mrs. Marie M. Sattler, national president of the Women's Union.

Special events will include a special Mission Exhibit, being planned by Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan director of the Propagation of the Faith. A concelebrated Mass for deceased members is scheduled at 7:30 p.m., Friday at St. Michael's Church. A social gathering will follow at St. Michael's Hall.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will be principal celebrant and homilist at a concelebrated Mass at 9 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 16. At 1:30 p.m. that day, Father Joseph P. Brennan, rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, will be speaker at the convention dinner at the One Eleven.

Planning the convention are William Roeger, president of the

local union and of the state organization; William Wittmann, general chairman, and Mrs. Mary Schwind, women's president and convention co-chairman.

Father Albert J. Riesner, CSSR, rector of St. Joseph's Church is spiritual director for the Rochester branch.

The union traces its beginnings back to Rochester when in 1854 a group of men met at St. Joseph's to lay the foundation for the new organization founded the following year in Baltimore under the title of Federation of German Roman Catholic Societies. It was better known through the years as the Catholic Central Verein until recently when it became the Catholic Central Union.

Business in the Diocese



MARTIN Q. MOLL

Martin Q. Moll, until now president of Christopher Press, has been elected chairman of the printing firm's board of directors as part of a general reshaping of the company's management and sales organization.

Henry F. Brayer, who had been senior vice president, replaces Moll as president and joins the board of directors. Clark F. Brady,



HENRY F. BRAYER

vice president for finance, also was elected to the board. Richard F. Limpert, formerly of Rochester Institute of Technology, has joined Christopher as vice president and director. Another new vice president is Bernard H. Florack, general manager of Martin Q. Moll Publications, Inc.

New Christopher sales manager is Dennis A. Pogoda, presently a sales account executive.

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