

**PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE**

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

# St. Bernard's Seminary: Ad Multos Annos!

One of the disadvantages of being in Rome this September is the fact that I will miss the reunion of the alumni of St. Bernard's Seminary. Next Tuesday and Wednesday, as they do every two years, between 500 and 600 of the over 1400 living alumni of this venerable institution gather to strengthen the fraternity that we feel for one another and to recall the memories of student days. We all remember those days, filled with both laughter and tears, as days that prepared us well for service in the Church.

This Fall, St. Bernard's began its 83rd year of operation. In that time, I am told, about 2200 men have been trained there who went on for ordination to the priesthood. Nearly another 2000 began studies there, but decided for one reason or another not to continue. Many still live in parishes around the East coast and contribute much to the Church as well-educated laymen.

In all of these years, St. Bernard's has done its job well. In days gone by, Msgr. Wilfrid Craugh saw to it that seminarians were trained in a most strict atmosphere, one that was required by the needs of the day. Students arose at 5:30 a.m. and retired at 10 p.m. when the electricity was turned off by a

master switch. They seldom left the seminary except for the famous "Church walks" on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Studies were confined to Scholastic philosophy and theology, as well as scripture and Church history. The well-defined and orderly life reflected a well-defined and orderly Church. The training then was well-suited to the needs of the Church.

The same fine tradition of training students for the needs of the Church continues today. The Seminary is in good hands. Father Joseph Brennan and his faculty work hard to provide a training that is characterized by the hallmarks of the present Church: openness, flexibility, professionalism, personalism. Firmly centered in a life of prayer which includes daily Eucharist and the Office of morning and evening prayer, as well as a half hour of personal prayer, the students lead a busy and active life. They study not only the theological subjects but other disciplines, such as psychology and sociology. Much of this is done in the ecumenical context of the Rochester Center for Theological Studies. Students have regular placements in parish churches and social agencies under trained supervision. Their presence in and contribution to the diocese even in these training years is acknowledged with gratitude by many.

During the past two summers, the historic buildings of the seminary at 2260

Lake Avenue have been extensively refurbished. A new roof, new electrical wiring and plumbing, as well as a full-scale remodeling of the kitchen and classroom facilities has given new life to that complex which was built under the personal supervision of the first Bishop of Rochester, Bernard J. McQuaid.

If St. Bernard's did nothing more than train good priests for our Church, I would be most pleased. But, luckily, the theological wealth of our seminary is available to more than the clergy. In the past few years, St. Bernard's has made its facilities and classes available to interested alumni, Sisters and laypersons. A growing Continuing Education department offers credit courses, non-credit mini-courses and special institutes. Workshops for lectors and courses for liturgical committees have become part of the offering of St. Bernard's Seminary. In addition, many of the faculty members have made themselves available for parish, and regional teacher training and adult education programs, while others write for our Courier-Journal and help to prepare Radio and TV programs for our diocesan Office of Communications.

It is my sincere hope that we will continue to thank God for the blessing of our seminary. Without it, our life together in Christ's Church would certainly go on, but it would be less enriched and less healthy. St. Bernard's Seminary: AD MULTOS ANNOS!



## Shun Secularism, Pope Urges Catholics

**Castelgandolfo [RNS]** — Warning against becoming Christians in the name only — "lukewarm, slack and passive," Pope Paul called on the Catholic faithful to "do more" to overcome the "irreligiousness, secularism, worldly seductions and hostility" of the current age through a new personal and collective Christian vigor.

He said this should be done, not by going back to traditional practices and outlooks, but by properly adapting to the changes and innovations brought about by Vatican II and implementing the "profile of beauty and Christian fulness" the council engendered.

The Pope, speaking to a general audience at his Summer residence here (Sept. 14), said the Christian faith must be witnessed along the lines of the "aggiornamento" (renewal) of Vatican II "inherited from Pope John XXIII" and which is the theme of the forthcoming 1975 Holy Year.

He said this was particularly true and "more than ever pressing" in light of the "spiritual uncertainties generated by the growth of modern cultures and of the ominous spirit of implacable criticism" of the Church.

At the same time, Pope Paul said he was not inviting his audience to revert to a spirit of reaction against change, but to be open to the Spirit, that is, the "fundamental principles and virtues of Christianity permeated by the Gospel and ecclesial communion and . . . to the needs of the present time."

Citing several examples of "negative phenomena" in church life — the drop in Mass attendance, decrease of priestly and religious vocations, permissiveness, and a lack of adherence to religious authority — the pontiff said the "opportune and sometimes necessary innovations (brought about by Vatican II) have produced in many souls a restless and sometimes blind desire for change at all costs."

Elaborating on recent developments within the life of the Church, the Pope said the "psychology of change can easily be transformed into anxiety and a sense of liberation." He added that anything "new" — because it is relieved from the internal and external bonds of normative tradition — appears to coincide with the "good."

He stressed the need for "light and strength" to live through this historic time "of going from one style of Church life, which we can call . . . traditional, to another state which may not be simply new and different but more lively, more genuine, more inflamed by faith and charity."

"This is definitely the vocation to sanctity which must be the unending ideal of the Christian," he declared.

Noting that the great threats to the Church today are "irreligiousness, secularism, worldly seductions, opposition and hostility towards Christianity," Pope Paul warned: "So much more conscious, watchful, solid and loving must our efforts be to equalize, to overcome this difficulty."



Headdress for the Pope

Pope Paul VI wears an Indian headdress he received from a group of Indians from Gaylord, Mich., during a private audience at his Summer residence at Castelgandolfo. After this light moment, the Pontiff dealt with a more serious theme. Speaking during his weekly general audience, the Pope scored a "materialism of the masses" and an "insensitivity to any spiritual calling" by many in the Church. He said the "list of evils" which afflict Christianity today can only be countered by faith in Christ's promise that the difficulties "will not prevail." He warned that today's "profane culture" is threatening to absorb the "treasure of wisdom and goodness which seems to be characteristic patrimony of the Catholic faith" and attempting to "empty our religion of so many of its reasons for existence." [RNS]

"It is not sufficient to be lukewarm, slack and passive . . . with a new personal and Christian only in name. It is necessary to be a Christian collective vigor."

## Anglican-Catholic Group Pays Visit to Pope Paul

**Castelgandolfo [RNS]** — Pope Paul told members of an Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue group here that their efforts at collaboration in many parts of the world show "how widespread is the impulse toward

reconciliation in Christ" and the impetus for unity which God wills.

In receiving the Anglican-Catholic International Commission at his Summer residence here, the pontiff recalled that many had been either participants or observers at Vatican II and that some "accompanied our beloved brother-in Christ (Archbishop) Michael Ramsey (of Canterbury) on his visit to this See more than eight years ago."

The Pope remarked that it was from that 1966 meeting that the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches resolved to begin the dialogue. "The dedication and the depths manifested in your work during these recent years testify to and strengthen the special relationship" between Anglicans and Catholics, he added.

"This is so not only because of your industry and achievements,"

the Pope said, "but also because of the collaboration you have been able to enlist in many parts of the world showing how widespread is the impulse towards reconciliation in Christ which strives to perfect the unity which He wills."

Acknowledging that the members of the dialogue interrupted a "difficult phase" of their work to visit him, the Pope said that "at such a moment there is no need for us to remind you of

the obstacles which remain to be overcome. Rather, let us dwell on hope and encouragement."

The Anglican-Catholic commission, which has already issued consensus statements on the Eucharist and the ministry, is now seeking to formulate a common position on authority in the Church, including the role of bishops and the Pope in the Church.

### Correction

Father John Baier was the founding pastor of St. Theodore's Parish. Father Baier died in 1956, at the age of 70, after more than 40 years of service to the diocese.