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Pope's Talks, Liturgy Column In Your Courier

A new regular feature, the weekly reprinting of addresses by Pope Paul VI as he makes them on current Church life, highlights some changes in your Courier-Journal beginning this week.

This week the Holy Father discusses the topic Our Teacher Is Christ Page 3.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's column, Pastoral Perspectives, will be found in its usual Page 3 location. Last week Bishop Hogan began a series on the "common laborer," a tribute "to all who seek to find a sense of vocation in their common and unheralded tasks." And as the Bishop points out, that includes most of us. Part 2 is on Page 3.

Also this week, a new column, Insights on Pastoral Liturgy, prepared by members of the diocesan liturgy commission and music commission, gets under way. The column, aimed at providing deeper insight into today's liturgy, will be coupled with the long-popular Word for Sunday, Father Albert Shamon's column on the weekly scriptural message. Together, we hope, they will add to your understanding and participation in the liturgy. Page 10.

RapAroundRapAroundRapAroundRapA

As high school activities rev up, so, too, does our RapAround section under the direction of Joan Smith. All the standbys that proved so popular last year are back, hopefully presenting an honest reflection of Catholic high school life and also providing space for our younger people to be heard. Pages 12-15.

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When school resumes, can football be far behind? Naturally not, and Courier-Journal scholastic sports expert John Doser has been visiting football practices and talking to coaches throughout the diocese to preview the new season. Doser offers a look at DeSales and Notre Dame teams this week. Page 12.

In case you haven't noticed it seems that television has suddenly realized that Catholics are interesting. Columnist Pat Costa has noticed a new trend in TV drama which seems to have awakened to the fact that people named Ryan, for instance, often have a religious dimension that can't be separated from the rest of their lives. Page 21.

Another veteran Courier-Journal columnist, George Beahon, pays tribute to a longtime friend and colleague, Tom Decker, who is leaving the local television scene. Page 22.

Bishop Casey At Strong

Bishop Lawrence B. Casey of Paterson, N.J., is in Strong Memorial Hospital recuperating from an operation. He is having no visitors, but cards would be appreciated, the Pastoral Office said.

The bishop, a former auxiliary

bishop in this diocese and former rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral, was accompanied here by three of his priests on Sept. 1 and underwent surgery the following day. The hospital reported that he was in "satisfactory" condition Monday.

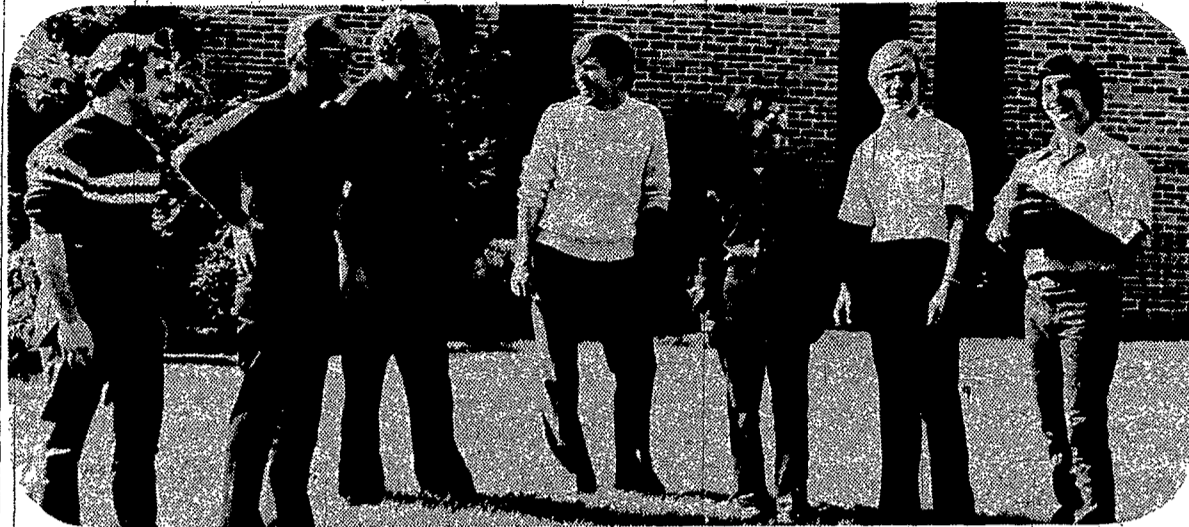


Photo by Susan McKinney

Early in the morning, before classes began, the scene on the Becket Hall lawn was of priests, seminarians and a football. From left to right are: Frank DiSano, Father John Hempel, rector; Father Gerald Connor, spiritual director; Mike LaLiberte, Anthony Mugavero, Eric Harer and Jim Willsey.

50 Seminarians at Becket

Vocations on Upswing?

By JOHN DASH

They've hit a "magic number" at Becket Hall. There are 50 seminarians enrolled this year at the college seminary with perhaps a couple more to enter in January.

For a number of years Father John Hempel, rector, has been saying that when enrollment hit 50, the end would be in sight for the "vocations crisis" that has plagued the diocese in recent years.

And now with his magic number here, he's feeling a "cautious optimism" over the situation; and with 12 more students enrolled this year over last, he's looking to see a trend.

In addition, he notes, there are other things building. For instance, other dioceses are taking an interest in Becket Hall. Seminarians are present from the Archdiocese of New York and the dioceses of Albany, Grand Rapids, Mich., and Syracuse.

And the average age of entrants seems to be older. "People are thinking a little later about vocations," he says, "and if this is true we may have a situation like that after World War II."

(In that era, a number of returning veterans entered the seminary, substantially swelling the priestly ranks. Father Hempel himself entered after service in WWII.)

The situation is both "exciting and interesting" to him. Seminarians, he says, are displaying a "greater maturity, a greater spirituality and a greater willingness to exert the effort to

work their way through the crises" of early seminary training.

Over and above the present enrollment there are a surprising number of inquiries about admission in January, and even next September, according to Father Gerald Connor, spiritual director at the residence. "We've never had them this early for next September," he says.

He reports that he has even had priests throughout the diocese telling him to be on the watch for certain applicants—a practice, he says, that indicates a resurgence of active campaigning on the part of the diocesan clergy.

That campaigning, as well as the values of the entrants themselves, and the diocesan

Continued on Page 2

Pray for Vocations, Bishop Urges

My dear People:

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross. It is also the Sunday designated for the Third Annual Prayer Campaign for Church Vocations.

The scriptures of next Sunday speak of Christ emptying Himself and being born in the likeness of men. St. John's gospel tells us "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him . . . may have eternal life." The first reading describes the chosen people asking Moses to pray for their deliverance.

Throughout the history of God's dealings with humankind, He has always selected people from the faith community to assume a role of leadership and mediation between Himself and His people. In today's world, this role is fulfilled most often by those who follow a Church vocation.

The men and women who are priests and Sisters, and those who seek to serve God in these vocations, must be worthy. Like Jesus Christ Who is their model, they must daily empty themselves if they are to serve God and the whole Christian community.

Those in formation must discover if God is calling them to a position of unique service in the community. All of us should pray frequently that they may be able to discern the Spirit in their lives, and have the courage to follow His promptings.

Once again this year I ask that all of our people pledge prayers and sacrifices for our priests, Sisters, seminarians and Religious in formation programs. Once again I urge you to put your commitment in writing. The seminarians and young Sisters who read them derive great encouragement from your generosity.

I ask you to make a pledge that is substantial and generous . . . a pledge of prayer and sacrifice that will continue for the whole year. Be assured of my gratitude as you pray that the Lord will continue to send laborers into the harvest.

With a blessing, I remain.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Joseph L. Hogan
Bishop of Rochester

Channel 10 Special on Mother Seton

A "documentary dramatic essay" on the life of Elizabeth Ann Seton will be aired by CBS Television next Sunday, Sept. 14. WHEC Channel 10, the Rochester outlet, will carry the program, 10-10:30 a.m. Some highlights from the canonization ceremony in Rome will be included.

The ceremony begins at 9:30 a.m., Rome time, in St. Peter's Square. NBC will cover it, but the network's Rochester outlet will not be showing the program. WOKR reported Monday that the ABC special on Mother Seton had not been scheduled but might be later.