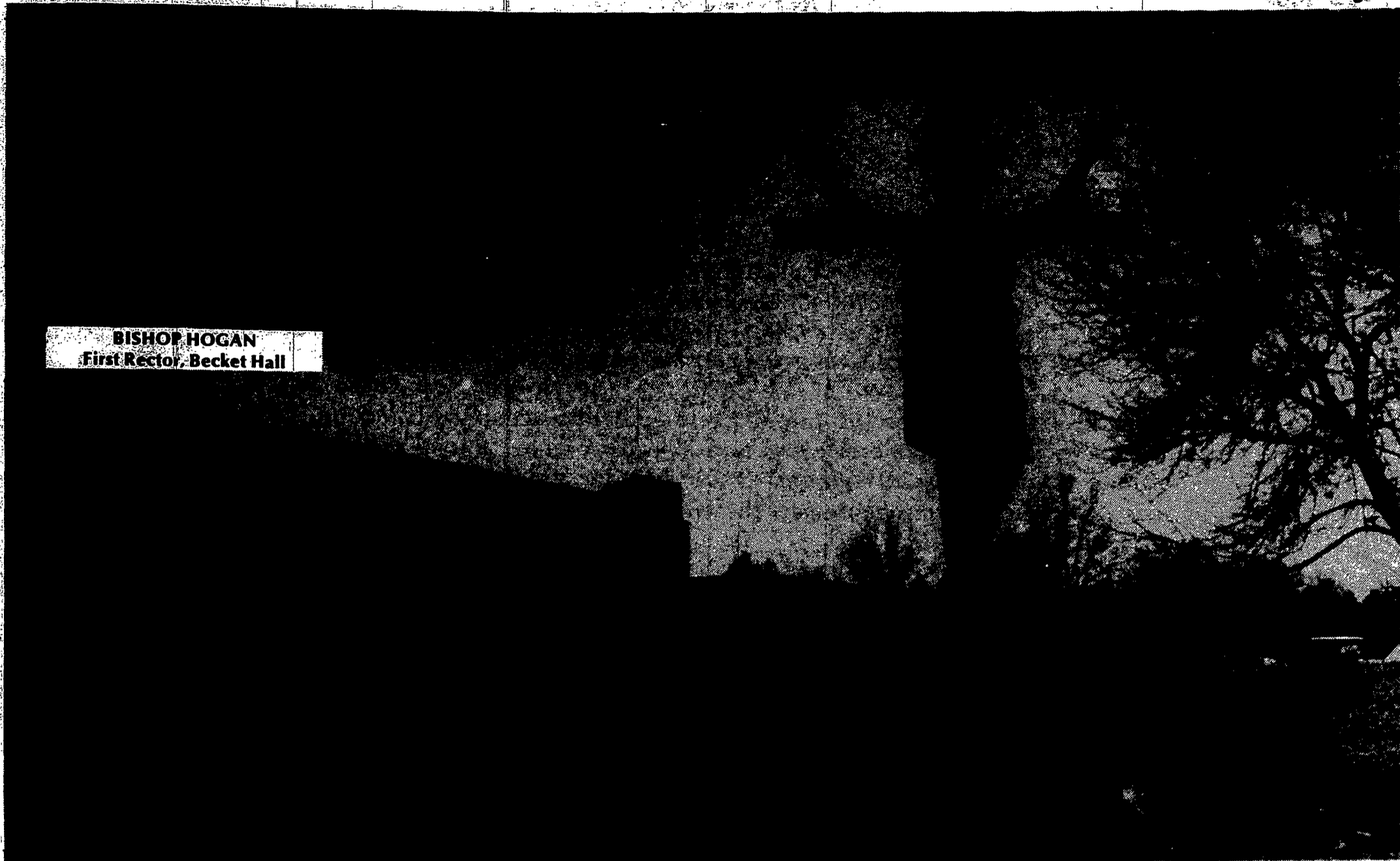


BISHOP HOGAN
First Rector, Becket Hall



Becket Hall Annual Report

March 1977

Dear Friends,

Becket Hall, the campus residence for seminarians who are enrolled at St. John Fisher College, was opened in 1967. It was made possible through the sacrifices of thousands of persons of the Diocese of Rochester, some of whom have continued to contribute to its support.

It is our conviction that Becket Hall is making distinct progress in the formation of young men for the priesthood. The nine graduating classes to date have seen 110 students completing the college-seminary program; 34 of these have been ordained priests and 29 are still pursuing their studies in a major seminary. Becket Hall also provides a convenient meeting place for groups of religious and laity throughout the diocese who use its facilities for activities such as retreats, workshops and conferences.

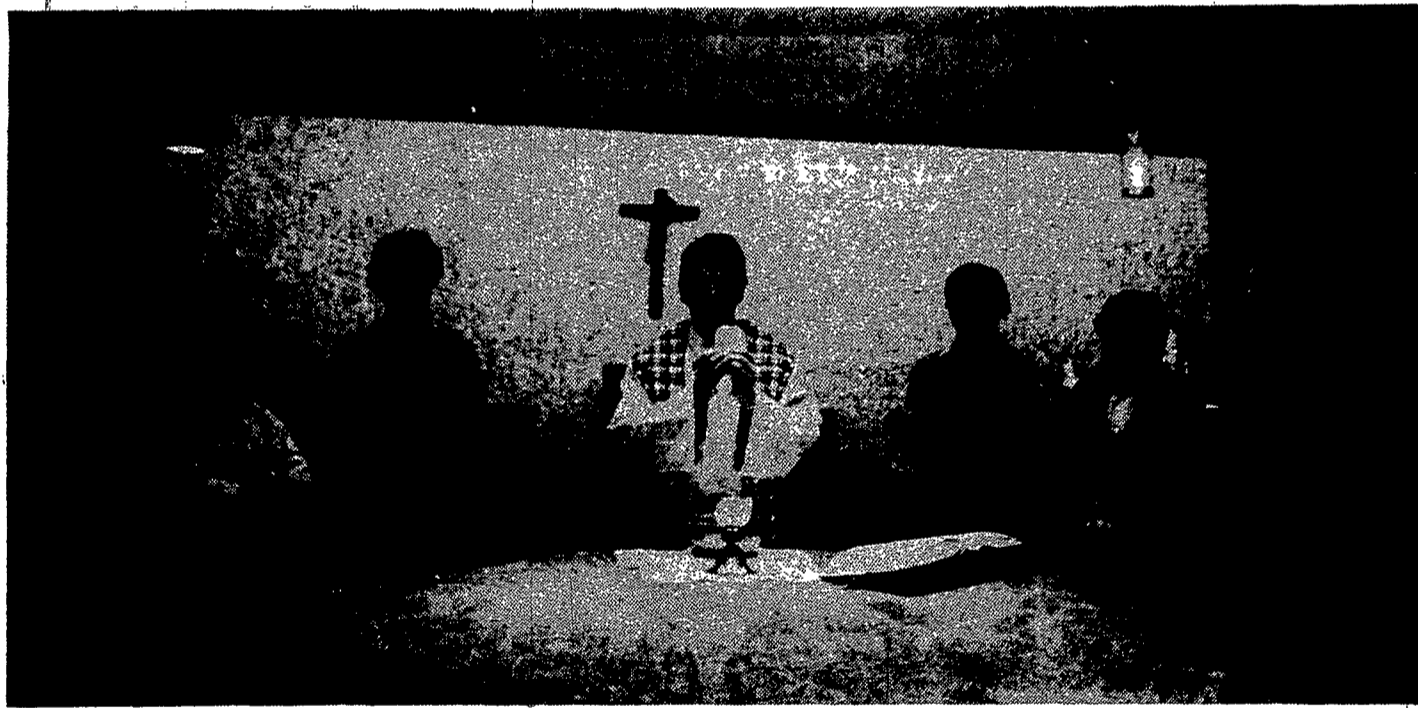
Like so many of today's educational institutions, Becket is experiencing the difficulties of the economic recession. It will require the sustained concern and support of our priests and people to enable it to continue its mission.

It was my privilege to have become the fourth rector of Becket Hall last June, and it is my pleasure to present to you its annual report. Accompanying it is a plea for your continued interest and prayers.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas R. Statt

Reverend Thomas R. Statt
Rector



Becket Hall — named in memory of Thomas a Becket, the English martyr — is situated on the campus of St. John Fisher College in the Rochester suburb of Pittsford. It is a residence for college seminarians who are progressing toward a decision for priesthood while at the same time being enrolled at Fisher.

The Becket residence was founded in 1965 as a relatively new concept in seminary training. It evolved from a phase-out of the diocesan St. Andrew's Preparatory Seminary and its somewhat sheltered and isolated program.

The Becket student continues his spiritual formation and his training for the priesthood while broadening his educational opportunities by participating in college life, thereby associating with laity representing those he later may be serving as a priest. He is thus in a better position to make a decision whether to continue his quest for priesthood. Regarded as

advantages for the Becket seminarian are the following:

The opportunity, not available in the self-contained seminary, to get to know contemporary college students — their problems, struggles, fears and hopes;

The opportunity to pursue college majors in which he may have special interest or talent. He is thus in a better position, if he later changes his mind about priesthood, to go on to some other vocation.

The majority of Becket seminarians, following graduation from Fisher, enroll in St. Bernard's Seminary, the diocesan major seminary whose four years of theological studies lead toward ordination.

It was with the vision of the late beloved Bishop James E. Kearney, fifth Bishop of Rochester, and Msgr. Joseph L. Hogan, first Rector of Becket Hall and now seventh Bishop of Rochester, that the

concept of this Formation Program was first developed. Becket was one of three beneficiaries — with already existing St. John Fisher College and Nazareth College — of a Joint College Fund campaign conducted in 1965 throughout the Rochester Diocese.

YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Becket Hall opened its doors in September 1967 with 110 seminarians in residence! Of the 11 in its first graduation class in 1968, 8 were ordained to the priesthood.

Statistics for the 5 graduation classes through 1972 (number of ordained in parentheses): 22 (8); 18 (11); 9 (4); 19 (6) 10 (5). Of the 34 ordained, 30 were for the Rochester diocese, 4 were for other dioceses.

The number of graduates in subsequent years was: 1973-12; 1974-5; 1975-6; 1976-9. Of these 32 graduates, 23 still are pursuing their studies for the priesthood.

Continued on Page 4B