

St. Bernard's . . .



Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Father Frank E. Lioi, Bishop Francis J. Harrison of Syracuse, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey and Bishop Robert R. Spears, Jr. of the Episcopal Diocese.

Following is the text of Father Frank E. Lioi's address at his installation last Saturday as the sixth rector of St. Bernard's Seminary.

My brothers and sisters in the Lord:

One of the necessary though delightful tasks of my previous position here as Director of Liturgy was the planning and execution of celebrations and their accompanying ceremonies. A further added attraction of that position was that I could be in the forefront of the preparation and in the background of the celebration. I really enjoyed the planning when someone else was in the spotlight.

I find myself this afternoon in exactly the reverse situation. Others have done the major portion of the preparation and I am the focal point of the celebration. Yet reflecting a bit further on this, I would like to think, and I hope that you agree with me, that this is not a celebration merely of my becoming the sixth rector of St. Bernard's Seminary; it is a celebration of St. Bernard's Seminary itself. Our gathering here today is an occasion on which we do honor to St. Bernard's as a senior Rochester institution, now entering its 85th year, as a post graduate professional school for the education and formation of ministers of Word and Sacrament in the Roman Catholic tradition. I ask you then to join me this afternoon in paying homage to St. Bernard's Seminary.

driving techniques and a new understanding of what it means to be a driver on today's roadways. Today I wish to make a parallel approach in my remarks on St. Bernard's Seminary. I wish first to review some of the basic concepts of Roman Catholic seminary education, and then to suggest what it means to be a Roman Catholic Seminary in today's world.

It was in session 23, canon 18 of the Council of Trent (1545-1563) that the word "seminary" was used officially to describe Roman Catholic institutions for clerical training. The same council made it obligatory for every diocese to erect a seminary for the purpose of educating local clergy. In 1877, as a result of a remark made to him by Pope Leo XIII, Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid began long-range plans for a major Catholic seminary in the Rochester diocese, of which he was the founding bishop. McQuaid was a man with extraordinary pastoral vision, a keen awareness of the American temperament, and a sound sense of dollars and cents, brick and mortar. What would he think of his beloved seminary were he alive today? It depends on how he conceived a seminary.

Let's take a look at some of the statements Bishop McQuaid made in his early pastoral letters and articles and see how he viewed the institution he opened, in 1893

1. McQuaid wrote: "We shall never have first-class study in our American theological seminaries until the standard of instruction is raised high by competent authority, and the examinations are from without, and independent of the local teaching body." Today his seminary is acknowledged by the Office of Higher Education of the State of New York, and was one of the first Roman Catholic seminaries to be accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. I think the bishop would be proud of that. He would be proud of the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts degrees currently offered at the seminary. He would be proud that St. Bernard's is in the mainstream of American theological education, progressive but very solid.

One of the things that this whole experience gave me was a review of some basic



Father Sebastian Falcone, Academic Dean of St. Bernard's Seminary, greets the celebrants.

Photos by
Terrance J. Brennan



Father Lioi accepts congratulations through the receiving line.

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