

Bp. McQuaid Would Be Proud

2. McQuaid wrote: "There is no justifiable reason why church authorities in America should be hampered by the custom and sagas of older countries, where innovations are looked on in the light of sacrileges. The American seminarist, as a rule, must be prepared for the ministry in America." McQuaid would certainly be proud to know that in the period after Vatican II, his seminary was one of the first to offer practical training through its field education program, in which those preparing for ministry are given supervised training by those working in ministry. An experiential educational process of this sort surely puts the student in touch with the American scene on the pastoral level.

3. McQuaid wrote: "The teaching that fails to develop a love for books and study, not alone during a student's seminary course, but in his after years, is defective." The founding father would be proud of our Continuing Education Center housed in its newly renovated building, and proud that the center is available not only for ordained priests but for all involved in pastoral ministry in and beyond the diocese.

4. McQuaid wrote: "The library numbers over 8,000 volumes. The need of a large fire-proof building presses on us every day. It will have to be large enough to contain a library of 50,000 volumes." He would be happy to know that today our library houses more than 80,000 volumes, contains the Fulton J. Sheen special collection room, and is looking toward a complete structural renovation in the not too distant future.

5. McQuaid wrote: The American student is, of all known to us, the most readily amenable to discipline, to a discipline that appears to his good sense, and which has been reasonably placed before him... The seminary is not to partake of the nature of a reformatory, but to be a home of piety, and a school of learning and virtue." Today Bishop McQuaid might be a little surprised to know that students have cars, especially since he himself refused to take a ride in one of those "horseless carriages" when invited to do so by George Eastman in 1905. The bishop might be a little surprised at the current approach to discipline, but he would be prompt to endorse its emphasis on the strong sense of individual responsibility and accountability that is demanded of each student.

6. McQuaid wrote: "Little need be said on the spiritual life of the seminary. This is its essential work. Without it the rest becomes a danger..." The actual and absorbing duties of the parish priest will need, when the hour of trial comes, all the solid piety the seminary's preparation can furnish." Today the bishop would be proud of the strong emphasis on daily morning and evening prayer, the celebration of the Eucharist, days of recollection, spiritual conferences, and the Desert Experience, one month spent in a rural retreat where intensive prayer and dialogue with God is the main order of each day.

7. McQuaid wrote: "Neither the present bishop

nor any of his successors need ever fear that the generosity of the Catholics of the Rochester diocese will be wanting for the support of its seminary. The money for the seminary can be found whenever the diocese decides that the seminary is its first obligation, and more important than its charitable institutions." Our founder would be proud of the continuous loyalty of the successive bishops of Rochester to the seminary — our auxiliary bishop, vice president of the board, Bishop Hickey, and our ordinary, Bishop Hogan, who not only serves today as the president of the Board of Trustees, but was himself once a member of the faculty. McQuaid would be proud, too, of the constant generosity of the laity of the diocese who for years supported St. Bernard's by a door-to-door collection, and to the special benefactors, lay and clerical, alumni and non-alumni, Rochesterians and non-Rochesterians, who have backed the seminary financially over the decades.

8. "The real difficulty," McQuaid wrote, "will be in obtaining money for its necessary endowments. Without the endowment of its professorships, it will grow shaky, do half work, totter and fall... Provision for professorships should come from our rich Catholics." McQuaid left nothing to the imagination. Today he would be proud of the direction the seminary is going in the matter of development, reaching out to possible donors and foundations to endow our professorships, support our programs, and build the best faculty we can.

9. McQuaid wrote: "Each young priest coming forth from the walls of St. Bernard's will be an additional recruit to uplift its honor and bear a share in sustaining it. In our relations to St. Bernard's we are all one, bishop, priests, and people" (Pastoral of 1894). He would be proud of our alumni support and the support of the people of the diocese. The ministry that our alumni, both lay and ordained, perform is the best sign of what St. Bernard's is all about and our best advertisement.

10. McQuaid believed that interdiocesan student registration at St. Bernard's would help prevent the rise of a provincial spirit. The original students were from the Rochester Diocese, but bishops from other dioceses soon began to send students to St. Bernard's. Today the founder would be proud to see Bishop Harrison here, representing the Diocese of Syracuse and symbolizing the close bond that has traditionally bound St. Bernard's Seminary with the Syracuse diocese. McQuaid would be pleased to have as guests Bishop Spears of the Episcopal diocese, President Pacala of Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Bexley Hall/Crozier Theological Seminary, and the combined faculties of the Rochester Center for Theological Studies. Their gracious presence bears ecumenical witness to the conviction expressed by McQuaid's episcopal motto "Salus animorum lex suprema": "The prime law is the saving of souls."

11. McQuaid wrote with true vision: "The aims in the



Father Lioi addresses the congregation.

future must be to widen our scope and broaden the plan of studies... It will be an unfortunate day for the church in America when its leaders content themselves with the barely sufficient in diocesan seminaries without adverting to the demands of the laity. The expectations of the laity are constantly on the rise, and no one can blame them. In St. Bernard's the foundations have been broadly laid, and upon them a great structure can be raised" (Pastoral of 1894). It he were alive today, what advice would Bernard McQuaid give to his seminary for the future?

Perhaps I could get more mileage out of my license renewal experience by adapting to the seminary a certain driving technique system that was presented to us in driving education class. The system comprised these five rules:

- 1) aim high in steering
- 2) see the big picture

- 3) keep moving your eyes
- 4) leave yourself an out
- 5) make yourself seen

St. Bernard's needs to keep its standards high and insist on excellence in all it does. It needs to see the big picture, to remember the Church is universal from age to age, from east to west. It needs to keep moving its eyes, to be aware of new demands that arise to which responses are necessary. It needs to leave an out, that is to be ever flexible; never frozen. It needs finally to make itself seen, that is, to stand out in the eye of the public as an institution founded to serve, modestly but loyally, the Church, the community, the nation.

May St. Bernard's Seminary ever remain faithful to this vision of its founder! May it ever enjoy the blessing of God our Father as all of us grow through his son Jesus Christ in the unity and fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Celebrants sign the guest book.



A view of the audience.