



Joseph Kelly, center director.

By JOHN DASH

"Ministering to the ministering," is what Joseph Kelly calls his job. He is the director of a new diocesan institution which combines the funds of the Diocese with the facilities and academic life of St. Bernard's Seminary. It's called the Center for Continuing Education; and, tomorrow at 3 p.m., Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will officially open its doors.

The center itself is a three-story building on the St. Bernard's campus which has housed, at times sisters who maintained the seminary plant, and deacons, those in their final year of studies prior to ordination to the priesthood.

Tomorrow afternoon, it will become, in the words of Isaiah, as quoted in the center's literature, "an oasis of peace."

They're starting off small, Kelly says of the programs scheduled for this year. The programs include workshops on pastoral problems in moral theology, the themes of advent and criminal justice.

Also slated this year are a number of "in-service experiences" on the topics of contemporary lessons from history, human skills in the sacrament of reconciliation, the passion-resurrection accounts in the New Testament, new liturgical rites, and Holy Scripture as God's word in human form.

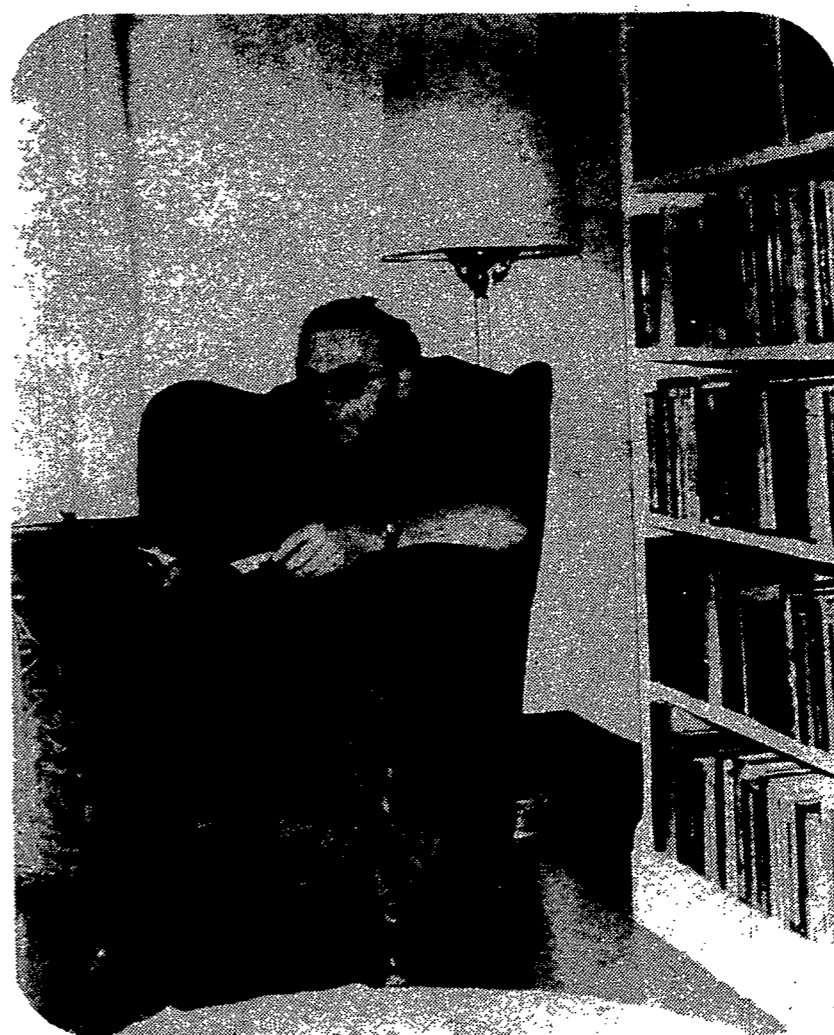
And more, both feast day celebrations and days of recollection are on the books for the center.

Kelly describes the center as "a center for creative rest." The intellectual stimulation which the workshops and programs will provide, should prove attractive to a good number of persons working directly in pastoral ministry, he says.

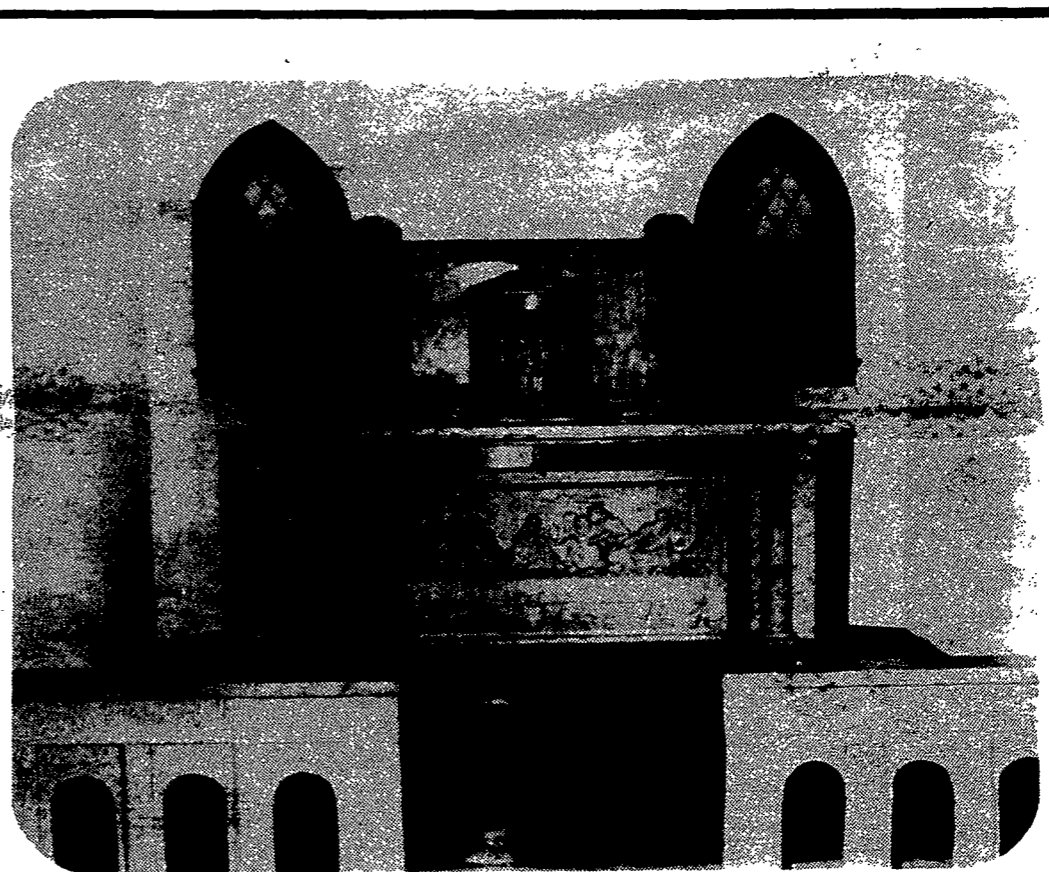
The facility includes a chapel, a small library, lounge and meeting rooms as well as two classrooms. For overnight guests, the center contains 22 single bedrooms and one two-room suite.

The center will serve everyone engaged in professional ministry, including priests, deacons, pastoral assistants, religious education coordinators, principals and teachers of religion, the center's fact sheet states.

"It is a place to take a day off, to have time to read, think, pray. It is hoped that the center will encourage everyone to enter into God's creative process: six days of work and one day of rest."



Father Gerald Conner using the center's library.



Two views of the remodeled chapel.



The foyer.