

BECKET HALL COLLEGE SEMINARY

Becket Hall — named in memory of Thomas 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.

Finance

Most college students are faced with financial problems, and Becket students are no exception. Currently, the tuition at John Fisher College is \$2970 and room and board at Becket is \$850. While it is a long standing policy of the Rochester diocese that "no one be deprived of studying for the priesthood because of financial difficulties," it is assumed that through parental

support, financial aid programs and summer employment, the student will do his part to meet these expenses. To be of some assistance to students in need of income, Becket employs a number of them in part-time jobs necessary for the operation and maintenance of the facility. Furthermore, there is a small scholarship fund available.

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Spiritual Formation

Becket Hall provides of the diocese, Basilian the opportunity for Fathers at the college seminarians to grow and priests in residence — the latter and as a community, including the rector, and as a community, including the rector, The prime emphasis is the spiritual director on Christ-centered and one or two other spiritual formation. clergy living at Becket. There is a daily schedule of liturgy and All students engage prayers; other exer in some form of penance services, bible religious education in vigils and student parishes, aiding inner-homilies. Spiritual city parishes, or work conferences are with social agencies conducted and counsel involving the poor, the is available from priests elderly and youth.

Becket Students At Fisher

The Becket student is enrolled at St. John Fisher College and is entitled to participate, with rare exception, in every phase of its curricula and activities. He is required as a seminarian to take 18 hours of philosophy and 12 hours of religious studies in order to qualify for admittance into a major seminary. He may take part in student government, in all athletics, clubs and social events which are not limited to couples, and in campus activities which do not involve "preliminary or real courtship" — no "one-to-one" dating. The association with female students at the college, is viewed as aiding his subsequent decision with respect to celibacy and enables him to see this issue in a very realistic way.



Rochester Students at Becket

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|------------------------|--|
| Frank J. Bock | Home Parish |
| Paul F. Bonetti | Mother of Sorrows |
| Robert S. Bourcy | St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin |
| Paul J. Cassano | Holy Ghost |
| Patrick L. Connor | St. Joseph, Penfield |
| Stephen M. Cook | St. Joachim, Canisteo |
| James M. Cowles | St. Vincent, Corning |
| Thomas P. Dempsey | St. John of Rochester, Fairport |
| Mark A. Denninger | St. Charles, Elmira Heights |
| Steven M. Duprey | St. John of Rochester, Fairport |
| Richard T. Farrell | St. Mary, Waterloo |
| John C. Hess | St. Augustine |
| Stanley G. Kacprzak | St. Agnes, Avon |
| Lawrence E. Kurmis | St. Cecilia |
| Stephen F. Marfione | O.L. of Perpetual Help |
| Christopher P. Mongeau | Good Shepherd, Henrietta |
| Scott J. Rutan | St. John the Evangelist |
| | St. John the Evangelist, Newark Valley |
| Dennis R. Sewar | Good Shepherd, Henrietta |
| George H. Walker | St. Paul, Honeoye Falls |
| John J. Wood | St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin |

BALANCE SHEET

Assets	Total, all funds	
	1977	1976
Cash	\$ 25,565	\$ 36,459
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$12,800 in 1977 and \$13,064 in 1976	15,076	12,891
Securities (market value \$351,220 in 1977 and 336,500 in 1976)	343,938	392,829
Building and furnishings	1,937,373	1,937,373
	<u>\$2,321,952</u>	<u>\$2,379,552</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Accounts payable	\$ 6,088	\$ 13,475
Due to St. Bernard's Seminary	8,338	8,530
Fund balances	2,307,526	2,357,547
	<u>\$2,321,952</u>	<u>\$2,379,552</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

	Total, all funds	
	year ended June 30, 1977	1976
Income:		
Room and board	\$ 41,263	\$ 38,903
Investment income	21,182	13,047
Loss on security transactions	(54,241)	(8,572)
Subsidies and gifts		
Diocese of Rochester	28,008	24,000
St. Bernard's Seminary	25,541	20,948
Other	18,138	8,627
Retreats	5,835	7,056
Other	13,856	14,858
	<u>99,582</u>	<u>118,667</u>
Expenses:		
Salaries	49,667	45,403
Payroll taxes and benefits	9,134	5,698
Occupancy	38,319	37,020
Food	29,302	31,192
Postage, telephone and supplies	10,616	9,539
Books, dues and subscriptions	1,421	1,356
Public relations	1,200	
Scholarships	950	2,089
Other	8,994	7,784
	<u>149,603</u>	<u>140,081</u>
Excess of income over (under) expenses	(50,021)	(21,414)
Fund balances at beginning of year	2,357,547	2,378,961
Transfers between funds		
Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$2,307,526</u>	<u>\$2,357,547</u>