

Pastoral Perspective

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

St. Bernard's Seminary — Vintage '85

I approach this year, the 9th anniversary of my ordination as Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester. It was Father Henry Atwell who eight years ago challenged me to write a weekly column for the Courier-Journal. I recall the meeting in Dansville when



he suggested that the people of the diocese would like to read each week what was deep in the mind and heart of their bishop. I accepted his challenge and it has proven to be a great personal discipline — to read, to reflect and to meet a timeline for reporting.

There are times when the unexpected event needs reporting as did the recent death of Pope Paul VI. This found me at my desk at 6 a.m. to meet an 8 a.m. deadline column to the Courier-Journal. But not so today as I write this column about St. Bernard's Seminary where I have spent more than a quarter of my life as student and professor. I have had years for this reflection.

I write these words on the Eve of the Feast of St. Bernard, the patron of our major Seminary. Bishop McQuaid assured his people that he had chosen Bernard as the patron saint of his seminary not because he was his own patron saint but because he wanted to form his priests to go out to speak to his people in a way to bring them to Christ. "This seminary," he said, "takes its name from a doctor of the Church, a leader of the people, a lion among timid and fearful Christians.

His wish has been fulfilled as we begin this year — the 85th academic year of our major Seminary which opened its doors to 39 students on September 4, 1893. Several days before Bishop McQuaid had dedicated its Chapel to the Immaculate Mother of God whose troubadour Bernard had been.

Four years ago I wrote a tribute to St. Bernard's from Rome where I was spending a month to upgrade my studies in Theology. The inspiration to personal growth was the challenge that St. Bernard's had given to me. I am sure that it has provided the same challenge to more than 2,000 young men who have been blessed with its presence among us.

Its fine tradition of training to meet the needs of the Church continues as our great blessing today. To many who may say, "It is not the Seminary of my days," I reply, "Thank God, it is not supposed to be." I taught at the Seminary for ten years of my life with the insights of Church given to me at the time. Today, thanks to Vatican II, I have a new vision which I gladly share with all who are willing to listen.

Despite all the changes in the Church, the priorities of the Seminary remain constant — the formation



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spiritual and intellectual of candidates for the priestly ministry. This remains now, as always, its top priority.

Yet, as ministry to the Church has developed and hardened, so have the programs of the Seminary. And all of this I have promoted and encouraged. St. Bernard's now educates religious and lay men and women who are serving full time in the Church. I have also challenged the Seminary to foster the Continuing Education Program of all who are involved in ministry and to prepare our candidates for the Permanent Diaconate.

I will be present for all the events of our Alumni Reunion on October 2 and 3 — to welcome home all who return to renew memories of their days that prepared them for the priesthood. Especially honored

will be three of the alumni among the twenty-two who have been ordained as Bishops of the Church. Bishop Frank Harrison, Ordinary of the Diocese of Syracuse, his Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Costello and Bishop Peter Rosazza, Auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Let me say that I am proud to be associated with St. Bernard's as student, professor and bishop. I am proud of its Rector, faculty, Board of Trustees and Diocesan Directors who face together with faith the difficult days that lie ahead — typical of the challenges that face all institutions today.

And I beg your prayers as we ask the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into His vineyard. The vocation crisis is our common responsibility.

Bishop Hogan's Public Appointments.

SEPTEMBER 1978

- 1 — Genesee Ecumenical Ministries, Forum of Denomination Executives — St. John's Home — 8:00 a.m.
- 1 — Diocesan Directors Meeting — 9:00 a.m.
- 3 — Celebration of Eucharist and "Ceremony of Sending" — Sisters of St. Joseph's Motherhouse — 1:00 p.m.
- 8 — Diocesan Directors Meeting — 9:00 a.m.
- 8 — Meeting with Commission on Aging — Monroe Community Hospital — 1:00 p.m.
- 10 — Concelebration of Eucharist and Homily — 50th Jubilee of Our Lady of Mercy High School — 2:00 p.m.

- 11-12 — Priests' Council Meeting — Cenacle Retreat House
- 14 — Cardinal Mooney — Celebrate Eucharist for Religious Personnel 5:00 p.m.
- 15 — Diocesan Directors Meeting — 9:00 a.m.
- 16 — Diocesan Pastoral Council General Assembly Meeting — Holiday Inn, Waterloo — 10:15 a.m.
- 17 — Concelebration of Eucharist and Homily — 125th Anniversary of St. Mary's Church, Rochester — 12:15 p.m.
- 18-20 — Spiritual Renewal Retreat — Ministry to Priests Program, Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua

- 22 — Diocesan Directors Meeting — 9:00 a.m.
- 22 — Ordination to Diaconate, St. Mary's Church, Elmira — 7:30 p.m.
- 24 — Celebration of Eucharist and Homily for Senior Citizens — Sacred Heart Cathedral — 3:30 p.m.
- 25-26 — New York State Bishops' Meeting — Sheraton LaGuardia
- 29 — Diocesan Directors Meeting — 9:00 a.m.
- 30 — Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Catholic Daughters of America — St. Michael's, Penn Yan — 11:30 a.m.

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