



Father Robert McNamara, Msgr. Walsh, and Joseph Kelly at the St. Bernard's academic convocation.

St. Bernard's Convocation Honors Msgr. Leo Walsh

Msgr. William Leo Walsh, a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse who studied philosophy at St. Bernard's Seminary, returned to his alma mater to receive an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree at the school's academic convocation.

Msgr. Walsh was cited for his 46-year tenure as pastor of Our Lady of Pompeii Church in Syracuse. Msgr. Walsh attended St. Bernard's from 1922 to 1924.

At the convocation, Father Frank E. Lioi, rector,

also conferred 30 graduate degrees. Those who received Master of Divinity degrees are Dennis M. Bonsignore, Rev. Mr. Timothy M. Brewer, Father Jorge J. Jimenez-Orellana, Rev. Mr. Joseph P. Kutipurath, Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Larrabee, Rev. Mr. Paul H. Leech, Rev. Mr. Timothy J. McCluskey, Rev. Mr. Francis A. O'Loughlin, Rev. Mr. Mario E. Papitto, Rev. Mr. Alfred V. Ricci, Thomas Ryan, Rev. Mr. Michael J. Schramel, Rev. Mr. Gary J. Schummer, Rev. Mr. Michael J. Sullivan, Rev. Mr. Andrew J. Vallomthail,

John B. Velekkakan, Rev. Mr. Tomy J. Velivil and Sister Joan Sobala.

Father James Hewes and Rev. Mr. Schummer received Master of Arts in Theology degrees.

Nine received the retroactive degree in Master of Divinity: Father Roger F. Baglin, David B. Callan, Msgr. A. Robert Casey, Father Robert DiFulio, Father Ronald E. Gaesser, Father Richard J. Grady, Dennis J. Mancuso, Father William D. Turnbull and Father John J. Wigh.

On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Ithaca Incident

Many times I have told this story. The place was Ithaca, N.Y.. The time was a Sunday evening in the summer, in the late thirties. I was an assistant at Immaculate Conception Church, under the tutelage of the quotable Msgr. Byrne. (One quote so good: "Do it now! There is danger in delay!")

I was walking home from the hospital, down Main Street. A tall young man, about 23, leaning against a laundry truck, watched me. It seemed curious to be scrutinized so intently by a stranger. The thought struck me: "Drunk or unbalanced." As I came even with him, he stepped forward and said: "Are you a Catholic priest?" "I am." "Could I talk with you some time?" "I'm going back to the rectory now. Can you come now?" "Good." He turned to the truck driver and said: "I'll talk with you later."

When we sat down in the office, with customary directness I asked: "What's on your mind?" "I want to know what I have to do to get back to the Church," he said unhappily. "Are you a Catholic?" "I was." "What do you mean, 'I was'?" "Are you excommunicated?" "Started he said: "No, not that I know of." "Are you married outside the Church?" "No, I'm not

married at all." "Well, what do you mean: 'How can I get back to the Church?' What's the story?" The story was impressive.

"I'm a student at Cornell University, and I live in a fraternity house with 30 fellows. My father is not a Catholic. My mother is. But there has never been any trouble about religion in our family. I went to a Catholic grade school, and a public high. But I haven't been to Mass or Communion since I came to Cornell three years ago." "Not even Christmas or Easter?" "No, not even then." "So you really want to get back to the Sacraments and to Sunday Mass?" "I sure do Father. That's why I'm here. What do I have to do?" "Well, there's no problem. I'll help you with your confession now; and you can go to Communion tomorrow. Then just be regular in the practice of your Faith. By the way, what gave you the idea of coming back to the Church?"

His answer was heart-warming. "It's kind of strange, Father. I live in a frat house with 30 fellows. As far as I know, no one knows I am supposed to be a Catholic. I certainly haven't given any evidence of it. A couple of weeks ago, some one put three or four Catholic pamphlets on my desk. At first I thought it was a joke, and didn't pay any attention to them. But one day I didn't have anything else to read so I picked them up, and it started me thinking."

The result of those few booklets was a young man

returned to Confession and Communion; to God. He was around for Holy Communion the next morning, Monday, at 7 o'clock. He persevered in his return. This is just one example of the many wonderful things that used to happen through the printed word. But that was 40 years ago. I do not think things are so simple today. Forty years ago all Catholic books and booklets were genuinely Catholic. Those were the days of Father Dan Lord, S.J. They were the halcyon days of the Catholic Intellectual Revival, producing Chesterton, Belloc, Ronald Knox, Graham Greene and Arnold Lunn.

They were the days of Mauriac and Bloy, Waugh and Maritain, C.C. Martindale, Dawson, Gheon, Benson and Sigrid Undset. Add to these the magnificent apologists Frank Sheed and his wife Masie Ward, whose Sheed-Ward publishing company, both in England and the States brought out great books to inspire and instruct both Catholics and non-Catholics in both countries. I think we have nothing like them today. Readers are invited to give a comparable group of Catholic writers of this day.

Regrettably these great minds are pretty much parked on library shelves gathering dust rather than inspiring intelligent Catholics and non-Catholic searchers today. If anyone wants an overview of these great writers and their times, it can be found in a fascinating book, "The Church and I" by Frank Sheed. It was written in 1974, during the trauma of the changes and challenges within the Church. It will give courage to many discouraged Catholics.

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