

# Becket Hall Past Rectors Comment

Becket Hall was named in memory of St. Thomas a Becket, 12th Century martyr.

Built by public subscription, it was opened in 1967 for seminarians attending St. John Fisher College. The Becket community had centered

earlier in an East Avenue mansion which was large enough to house only the members who came from out of town. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan was the first Becket rector, and he lived at the new hall for a year.

"Naturally, I am saddened to see us have to relinquish the property," Bishop Hogan said last week, "but I am sure the decision was made by very competent, very reflective people."

"The people of the diocese can feel assured that their intentions, when they gave money for Becket Hall, will be honored, in the sense that the money will be spent on the education of our seminarians."

Bishop Hogan noted that

## Vocations Discussed

In preparation for the New York bishops' discussion of vocations, at their Spring conference next month in Syracuse, Frank and Sue Staropoli are calling a meeting for April 9, primarily for parents who are interested in the subject.

"We need input," Staropoli said last week, explaining that he and his wife would speak at the bishops' session in their capacity as directors of the diocesan Catholic Charities' Family Life office.

The meeting will be "very open," Staropoli said, even though it is primarily for parents. It is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, in the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road.

## Nazareth Hall Has Openings

Parents of children 3 to 14 years old are invited to tour Nazareth Hall, 180 Raines Park, any time this month, to talk with the principal and staff and look over the program. Registration will continue through March 31.

## Holy Week At the Cathedral

The Solemn Blessing of the Palms, with a procession and choral music, will take place at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 11:15 this Sunday morning. — Passion (Palm) Sunday. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate the Mass opening Holy Week, and will be principal celebrant of five other liturgies during the week.

At 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, he will celebrate the Chrism Mass, at which sacramental oils are blessed and priests and people, renew their commitment to the mission of the Church.

Bishop Clark's Holy Week program includes also the Solemn Concelebrated Mass of the Lord's Supper, at 7:30 p.m. Holy Thursday; the Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's

Passion, at 3 p.m. Good Friday; the Solemn Easter Vigil and Concelebrated Mass of the Resurrection, at 7:30 p.m. Holy Saturday, and the Solemn Sung Mass of the Resurrection at 11:15 Easter morning.

The cathedral schedule includes a Mass with folk music at 10 a.m. on Easter Sunday.

The regular Sunday schedule will be followed on Easter, with this exception: Mass will be celebrated at 1 p.m. instead of at 12:30.

On Good Friday, members of the parish youth group, SHAG, will present their traditional Living Stations of the Cross, at 2:15 p.m. and again at 7:15.



Bishop Hogan



Father Hohman



Father Hempel



Father Statt

Becket was built "with the hope of having many more vocations," but that the place had survived "only because of the Fisher students in residence."

Becket graduates number 154. Fifty-three of them have been ordained; 35 are studying in major seminaries.

Father Louis Hohman, who succeeded Bishop Hogan as rector, said he had "no regrets" about the sale of the property.

"We started in 1965 with a dream," Father Hohman continued. "In some ways the dream was not fulfilled,

but in other ways it was."

The present rector, Father Thomas Statt, telephoned the news to his immediate predecessor, Father John Hempel, who now is a chaplain at a veterans' hospital in San Francisco. Here is Father Statt's report on Father Hempel's reaction:

"Best news I've heard in a year!"

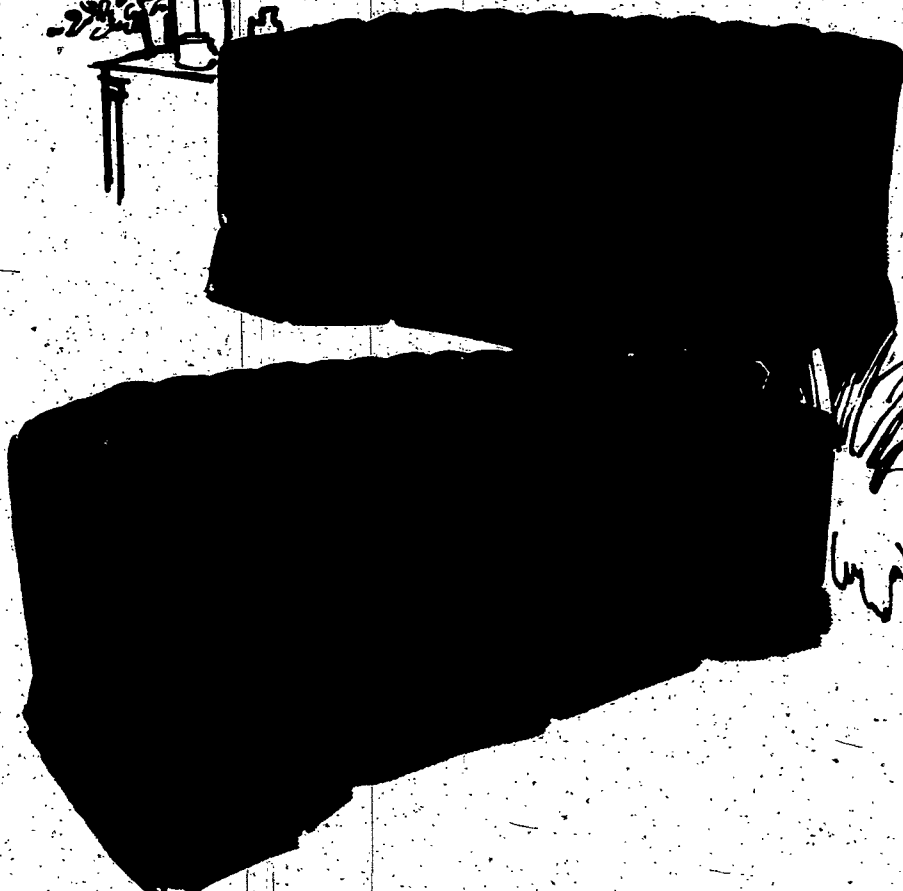
The former rector was thinking, said Father Statt, that the move "would help the Becket program to retain its identity," having its own place, separated from the major seminary, "standing on our own two feet."

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