

Seminary Council Praises Father Loi

The Student Council of St. Bernard's Seminary has issued a statement commending Father Frank E. Loi, rector, while at the same time stating that students "are saddened at Bishop Clark's recent decision to close the seminary."

Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced the closing of the seminary Jan. 7, citing shrinking enrollment, rise in costs and the problem of maintaining the present quality of the theological staff. The council stated its

"support of him (Father Loi) and the vision of the Church he has fostered for the past four years. We believe that the closing of St. Bernard's is no reflection on his ability, performance, or commitments ..."

The statement further said that Father Loi "encouraged the enrollment of lay students and the provision for their needs ..." and that "students were given a part in operating the seminary and planning its programs."

The council further stated, "We can only applaud the developments he had planned for St. Bernard's," including joint appointments with Colgate/Bexley Hall/Crozier Theological School, a "clear step toward practicing ecumenism," and plans to introduce a stronger social justice component.

"Perhaps we most appreciate that Father Loi is a pastor to us while we attended St. Bernard's," the council stated.

Sr. Jamesine To Visit Brazil

Sister Jamesine Riley, SSJ, will leave Tuesday, Feb. 10, for a two-week visit with members of Rochester Sisters of St. Joseph serving as missionaries in Brazil.

first meeting of its kind, will be the formation of a Brazilian Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, comparable to the federation which unites congregations in the U.S. and Canada.

Sister Jamesine will also attend a meeting of representatives of 15 congregations of Sisters of St. Joseph serving in Brazil. An expected result of this, the

Ten Rochester Sisters of St. Joseph are working in Brazil. There are two nurses, a physician's assistant, pastoral assistants and catechists.

RSMs Set Vocations Evening

The Sisters of Mercy will hold an evening of prayer and reflection for women considering a religious vocation at Melita House, 124 Evergreen St., near St. Michael's Church.

The program opens at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 10: It is one of ten planned by the Sisters of Mercy Vocation Team.

work, in the marketplace and in the streets, that Jesus is active and present through His Church.

What will a deacon do? The permanent deacon will be active in such ministries as prisons, hospitals, youth groups, campuses and parishes. This is to look at the deacon from the point of view of his job description. He will baptize, perform marriage ceremonies, preach the Gospel, and bury the dead. But just as one's occupation gives only a single facet of a person's life, so is it the case in defining a deacon by what he does, instead of who he is as a total person: The formation program is designed to assist the deacon candidate in identifying who he is in terms of the unique gifts he can bring to the building up of the body of Christ in a spirit of loving service. His role is to enable others to discover their own God-given gifts, and together to serve the community which calls out to them.

The permanent deacon does not have a present-day role model. Therefore, it will be important for the Church (all of us) to be open, supportive, loving, and especially prayerful, that the Holy Spirit will guide us through this period as the Church in the Rochester diocese prepares to ordain those who permanently commit themselves to be ministers of charity and justice, of word and sacrament, in the order of deacon.

Centering on Service



Permanent Diaconate Program

In spring 1982 the Diocese of Rochester will have in its midst the new group of ordained ministers — the permanent deacons. The first class to be ordained in the diocese brings to fruition what Bishop Joseph L. Hogan called "a high priority need" in his Pastoral Letter, "Living Stones," on Nov. 28, 1975.

The restoration of the diaconate by the Second Vatican Council was a pastoral response to the needs of our times. The Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate for the United States was authorized by the Holy See in 1968 to develop a program for this country. In our diocese, a four-year formation program for deacon candidates began at St. Bernard's Seminary in September 1978, under the direction of Msgr. George A. Cocuzzi and Sister M. Hilaire Gaelens, RSM. Additional classes of deacon candidates were formed in 1979 and 1980, and at present a total of 58 men are in formation.

"Diakonia," the Greek word for service, gives us some insight into the New Testament roots of this

office. The model of service for the deacon is, of course, Jesus Christ who gave His life for us. "I am among you as one who serves" (Lk. 22:27), and, "Greater love than this no one has, that one surrender his life for his friends" (Jn. 15:13). The early deacons served the body of Christ in works of charity, in spreading the Good News through preaching, and in administering the goods of the Church for the benefit of the poor. By ordination, the deacon shares in the Sacrament of Holy Orders with bishops and priests, and is empowered to minister to the people of God in a special way through the action of the Holy Spirit in his life.

The deacon candidates in today's program are men who are responding to the prompting of the Spirit. Almost all of them are married, have full-time jobs to support their families, and have been involved in a variety of ways with building up the body of Christ. They will continue to do these things after ordination, but as ordained ministers, will bring a sacramental dimension to their witness in the world of

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