

Bittersweet Convocation Marks Closing of St. Bernard's

The final academic convocation at St. Bernard's Seminary, held May 6, was a bittersweet affair. Father Robert McNamara, long time professor and diocesan historian at the seminary, said "if we have one good reason to mourn tonight, we have two good reasons to rejoice."

Father McNamara continued saying to those in attendance that although the

seminary is to be closed there was cause to rejoice "first of all because so many who have worked so long and so hard at their studies are now reaping the reward of an academic degree."

"We rejoice, in the second place, because although we grieve that St. Bernard's Seminary will have no future, we are consoled by the fact that it has had a distinguished past."

Bishop Matthew H. Clark conferred 21 Master of Divinity degrees to the last graduating class of priests from St. Bernard's. Two priest staff members at St. Bernard's were also given honorary degrees. Father Frank E. Lioi, rector, and Father Robert J. DiFulio, dean of student affairs, received honorary doctorates from John L. Greisberger, president of the board of trustees.

The bishop decided to close the seminary in early January, citing shrinking enrollment, rapid tuition increases, and difficulty in maintaining very large old buildings as reasons for his actions.

In his statement announcing the seminary's closing, Bishop Clark said, "This decision, while not an easy one to make, is, I believe, the best decision in the light of all the circumstances of our times."

In his address to the graduates, Father McNamara briefly outlined the history of St. Bernard's which was opened in 1893 under the

leadership of Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid.

Father McNamara told those in attendance that through the years the seminary had been looked upon as being "notable in leadership, both before and after the Second Vatican Council."

Father McNamara closed his remarks quoting Bishop McQuaid:

"God has been with the undertaking from the beginning, and blessed it beyond the merit of men. To him all the honor and glory."

The final graduating class of St. Bernard's Seminary, included James P. Belogi, Joseph R. Catanise, Joseph J. Clamente, John L. Close, Daniel J. Condon, Timothy A. DeTraglia, James M. Ezrow, Raymond H. Fleming, Donald J. Hebert, Paul T. Hurley, Rosario P. LaDeifa, James D. McDermott, John A. Moly, William A. Moorby, Robert L. Muhlmeier, George R. Norton, Robert P. Ring, Michael F. Rose, Donald L. Rutherford, Peter J. Schmitt and Melvin H. Walczak.

Dennis Bonsignore Ordination Slated

Rev. Mr. Dennis Bonsignore will be ordained a priest of the diocese by Bishop Matthew H. Clark at noon, Saturday, May 23 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Elmira. It will be the second ordination in Elmira in the history of the diocese. The first took place in 1955.



FATHER BONSIGNORE

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bonsignore of Rochester has been both deacon candidate and deacon intern under the supervision of Father Paul McCabe, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Father Bonsignore attended Holy Apostles School and Aquinas Institute. A former member of the Congregation of St. Basil, the ordinand received a BA from St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto, and worked for a year at Holy Rosary Church, Toronto, and taught for a year at Aquinas Institute.

He furthered his education at St. John Fisher College and

at St. Bernard's Seminary, earning an MDiv degree in 1979.

Father Bonsignore will celebrate a solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 24, at Holy Apostles Church. Msgr. J. Emmett Murphy will preach.

Father Bonsignore will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 30 in the Elmira church.

Centering on Service



The Bishop's Administration

Meeting the many needs of some 400,000 Roman Catholics in the 12 counties of our diocese requires many people working together.

The bishop relies on the talents and skills of his Pastoral Center staff to help him respond to those needs.

In the day-to-day administration of his ministry as bishop, Bishop Matthew H. Clark is assisted by a priest and lay secretary, who work together to coordinate his correspondence and calendar of appointments. Their tasks include arranging the year-long Confirmation Program for Bishop Clark, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Bishop Dennis W. Hickey. They also make all meeting and travel arrangements for the bishops and maintain the official diocesan records and files. Each week the bishop's office responds to hundreds of written and telephone requests.

under his own administration. It is the Tribunal's task to examine marriages that have failed, to determine whether the relationship was indeed marriage as understood by the Church.

Education is a very important function of the Tribunal. The staff spends a great deal of time in speaking with groups of priests and pastoral assistants, as well as with individual priests, sisters and deacons.

Urban Ministry

The problems of our urban centers are also a particular concern of the bishop and come under his direct administration.

Here ministerial, educational and financial help is designated to meet their special needs.

The priest-secretary serves as information officer in all contacts with the news media. He also prepares and directs all sacramental celebrations over which the bishop presides.

The bishop's own office team serves as a channel of communication to free the bishop as much as possible for personal pastoral presence around the diocese.

Tribunal

The Tribunal, as Church Law Court, is also directly responsible to the bishop and

Depression Is Seminar Topic

Elmira — "The Great Depression of 1981, the Non-Financial Type" will be the title of the next "To Your Health Seminar" at St. Joseph's Hospital, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 27, in the hospital's Doctors Meeting Room.

Presenting the program will be Dr. Peter Maines, director of the Chemung County Mental Health Clinic, who also has a private practice in Elmira.

The health seminars are free of charge and time is allowed for questions. Reservations are not necessary, but seats can be reserved by contacting the hospital Community Relations Office at 733-9137.

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