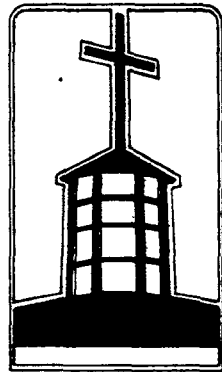


# wadhams



# hallmark

Spring, 1991

The Hallmark is prepared annually by the students, faculty and staff of Wadhams Hall.

Wadhams Hall is a Seminary-College Located in Ogdensburg, N.Y.

## Past presidents reflect on growth ...



The four past presidents of Wadhams Hall gathered to present their resounding support of the growth and development of Wadhams Hall this past February. Pictured above are, from left to right: Msgr. Francis P. Devan, Msgr. Floyd J. Brown, Fr. Thomas J. Thottumkal, the Very Rev. Peter R. Riani, and Fr. Leeward J. Poissant.

Rev. Thomas J. Thottumkal, President of Wadhams Hall was pleased to welcome four past presidents of Wadhams as speakers at the school's annual Faculty Development Day.

"A Day With the Ex-Presidents," began with Fr. Thottumkal expressing his appreciation to each of the participants. "We feel privileged and proud of this day because of your presence," he said. The priests shared their experiences at Wadhams Hall with the faculty, especially their remembrances about the 'Spirit' of Wadhams.

Msgr. Francis P. Devan, who had been a professor at Wadhams since 1932, served as president of Wadhams from 1942 to 1958. He spoke on the "Original Orientation of Wadhams Hall." In his reflections, Msgr. Devan shared his opinion that the study of philosophy is "the indispensable foundation for theological studies. It is crucial that the student be able to determine what is certain, uncertain, and not known." One of the highlights of Msgr. Devan's years as president of the school is that Wadhams received its permanent charter from the New York State Board of Regents in 1949.

Msgr. Floyd J. Brown was president of Wadhams Hall from 1958 to 1974. Currently a board member for Wadhams, Msgr. Brown is a

familiar face to all at the school. He spoke about the Spirit of Wadhams from 'A President's View,' and recalled that in his day the seminary was much more regimented. "Free time away from the seminary required that students went with someone else. Faculty and older students served as role models for what the younger students wanted to be." He further commented that the spiritual growth of the students was the focus of the institution at all times. While Msgr. Brown was president, Wadhams received accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

The Very Rev. Peter R. Riani joined the Wadhams faculty in 1960, and is currently the chair of the Religious Studies Department. Msgr. Riani was President of Wadhams Hall from 1974 to 1982. He also was Dean of Students for several years, and the unique perspective gained from that experience was the emphasis of his talk. Msgr. Riani praised Wadhams for its "Tradition of openness." He commented that during the 60s and 70s the type of students and the type of priests that these students became changed dramatically. "Wadhams was ahead of its day even when I was a student," he said. While other seminaries had stone walls around them to protect

them from outside influence, Wadhams was always quick to adapt to cultural changes.

Rev. Leeward J. Poissant also continues to serve at Wadhams as a part-time faculty member in the Philosophy Department. Fr. Poissant was president of Wadhams from 1982 to 1987 and spoke to the faculty about the spirit of Wadhams "From a Professor's View." Fr. Poissant recalled the development of the separate teaching areas at Wadhams. The development of individual areas for English, French, Social Science and Philosophy and other teaching areas seems quite commonplace for most of us. In the 60s however, it was quite progressive for a seminary. During Fr. Poissant's presidency the seminary college became the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant which allowed for the establishment of a Fine Arts Department at Wadhams Hall.

Fr. Thottumkal assumed the presidency of Wadhams in 1987. His enthusiasm and vision has led to a change in the charter of Wadhams Hall to allow for the welcoming of women to study at the college. This has led in turn to the establishment of the Christian Leadership Program. "To serve the people of God is still at the top of our agenda here at Wadhams," he commented.

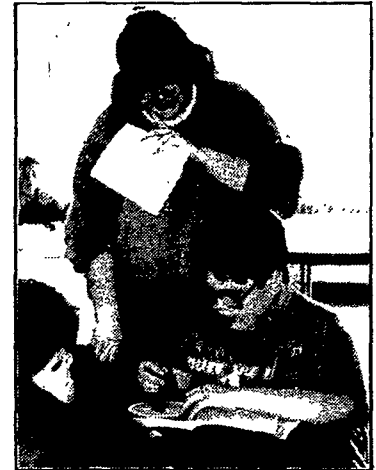
## Religious studies major added

Sr. Mary Christine Taylor, S.S.J., Academic Dean at Wadhams Hall, has announced that the New York State Education Department has officially approved the seminary-college's new Bachelor of Arts curriculum with a major in Religious Studies. Prior to this, Wadhams Hall offered a curriculum with a major in Philosophy or a double major in Philosophy/Religious Studies.

While the study of Philosophy is necessary for students preparing to enter major seminaries, the desired educational focus for lay persons seeking to learn more about their faith may preferably be Religious studies. The development of two very specific majors with curricula designed to complement each, reflects the college's dual emphasis. While the primary mission of Wadhams Hall is "to prepare and educate men to pursue the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church," the college is also committed to the education of men and women for a variety of leadership roles in the Church. The charter of the corporation was so amended by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York on October 21, 1988, that the mission of Wadhams Hall was expanded to meet the emerging needs of the "non-ordained" ministers, as well as those preparing for ordination.

The curriculum for each of the majors at Wadhams Hall is quite specific with plenty of liberal arts courses for a solid educational foundation. The Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Religious Studies requires 125 credits, including 14 in English, 4 in Fine Arts, 12 in Modern Foreign Language, 6 in Mathematics, 8 in Science, 15 in Social Sciences, 12 in Philosophy, 3 in Christian Ministry Practice, 21 in liberal arts electives, and 30 in Religious Studies. The baccalaureate degree with a major in Philosophy, on the other hand, has a similar liberal arts core, but requires 27 credits in Philosophy, 9 credits in Latin, and 12 credits in Religious Studies.

Christian Leadership students are free to choose the major which will best help them attain their goals. The Religious Studies major, however, will offer these students an excellent balance of spiritual formation, complemented by liberal arts. A liberal arts education assists the student in developing appropriate intellectual skills and qualities, in mastering the information and methods of inquiry specific to the academic disciplines, in understanding and formulating a personal value system, in developing the aesthetic sense, and in attaining a better realization of each person's civic and global responsibilities. Students majoring in Religious Studies may enhance their own appreciation of the faith and of Sacred Scripture, and also heighten their moral consciousness. Such people will be better able to share with others in the community their own enlivened faith.



Lorraine Turgeon, a Christian Leadership student at Wadhams, teaches Religious Education at St. John's Parish in Morristown, NY as her Community Service Project.

## Community service projects

By David Hill, Seminarian

All full time students at Wadhams Hall are offered the opportunity to work on a community service project. These projects include such services as: teaching religious education, working with prisoners and visiting the elderly. This year two other students and myself have community service projects at Mercy Hospital in Watertown.

Each Tuesday we go to the hospital and discuss various counseling topics such as alcohol abuse, suicide and depression. When we talk about these topics, we discuss their causes, effects, and possible treatments.

After each discussion session, we then are teamed with a counselor. We then sit in on individual counseling sessions in order to get hands-on experience with different techniques used in counseling clients.

I myself have found this to be a helpful and interesting learning experience. We are able to learn a lot by watching and working with counselors who have spent much of their lives developing their skills. This time that we spend in this service will benefit all of us greatly in any service which we perform in the future.



Music plays a prominent role in the community life of Wadhams Hall. Here, the Chorale sings 'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming' during the Christmas Evensong performance. The group typically prepares a variety of classical pieces by composers such as Handel, Mozart, and Praetorius. The Chorale is comprised of students, faculty and local community members. Mr. Christopher J. Fusco is the Director.



The liturgy is central to life at Wadhams Hall. Daily mass provides a welcome time for prayerful reflection for the entire Wadhams Community. Because of the enthusiastic singing of the participants, one faculty member likened mass at Wadhams to "being in the midst of the Vienna Boys Choir."



Wadhams Hall provides a great opportunity for a person to be involved in sports. Randy Morrisseau is the Student Sports Director. Randy's job is to "decide what sport will be played for a certain day. That sport can be any one of a variety of games including floor hockey, volleyball, basketball, soccer, baseball and even pickleball." A student from the diocese of Thunder Bay in Canada, Randy obviously enjoys his position." In addition to sports, there is also a well equipped game room where a person can play pool, foosball, air hockey and even ping pong.



Sr. Mary Christine Taylor, S.S.J., Academic Dean.

**Wadhams Hall**  
 Preparing today's women and men for leadership roles in the church

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