

# Father Falcone resigns from SBI's presidency

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Father Sebastian Falcone, president of St. Bernard's Institute since it evolved in 1981 from the former St. Bernard's Seminary, has resigned the position, effective Dec. 31, 1992.

After a one-semester sabbatical to pursue writing and research projects, Father Falcone will return to SBI to assume full-time teaching duties.

SBI's Board of Trustees has formed a search committee and expects to name a successor in the next few months, according to Karen Higman, the institute's development director.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark officially accepted Father Falcone's resignation in a letter dated Sept. 25.

"I am grateful for your leadership of the Institute, for the bonds of cooperation and respect you have strengthened with (Colgate Rochester Divinity School)," Bishop Clark wrote.

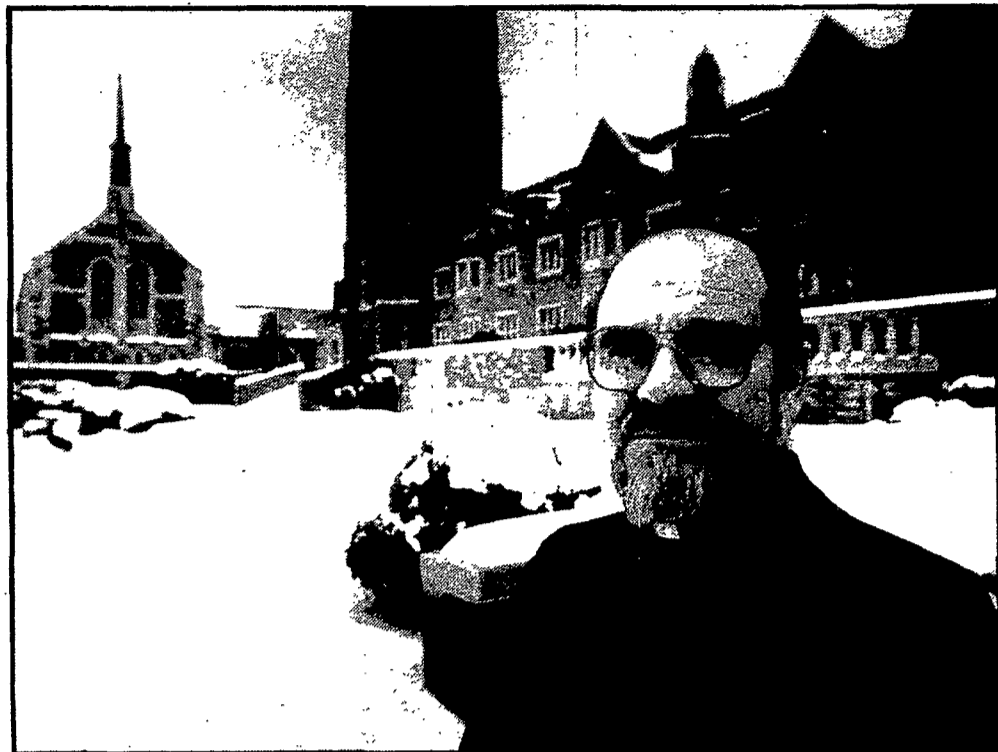
Father Falcone told the *Catholic Courier* that part of the impetus for his resignation at this time is the fact that St. Bernard's will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1993. "It seemed a good time to get someone new in the position" before the celebrations began, Father Falcone said.

In addition, Father Falcone noted, work is nearly completed for an April, 1992, visit by the accreditation committee of the Association of Theological Schools. The reports in preparation for that visit will be completed and submitted to the SBI Board of Directors in December.

During his tenure, Father Falcone supervised St. Bernard's move from 2260 Lake Ave. to the 1100 S. Goodman St. campus of Colgate Rochester Divinity School. In the intervening

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Father Sebastian Falcone  
Outgoing president of SBI



File photo  
Father Sebastian Falcone, who has served as president of St. Bernard's Institute since 1981, will step down from his post on Dec. 31, 1992.

years, he has overseen the signing of three consecutive covenants detailing the relationship between SBI and the Divinity School.

Father Falcone also oversaw the integration of the library holdings of the former St. Bernard's Seminary into the Divinity School's Ambrose Swasey Library. The addition of St. Bernard's 41,000 volumes helped to make the library one of the 10 largest theologically focused collections in the United States, Father Falcone observed.

Father Falcone also directed St. Bernard's transition from a seminary focusing on the formation of priests to a theological institute primarily concerned with developing trained lay leadership.

That transition, Father Falcone observed, was prompted in part by declining enrollment in the seminary and

the subsequent financial strains caused by maintaining such an institution for so few individuals.

At SBI, "The core resources of the seminary program were redirected toward another kind of need that the diocese could address — preparing a broader number of people for a broader number of ministries," Father Falcone said.

Among the challenges of his tenure as president of SBI were increasing enrollment and stabilizing the institute's financial situation, Father Falcone acknowledged.

In 1991, SBI hired Brian Millette as its first full-time student recruiter. Under Georgia Crissy, who was recently hired to succeed Millette, efforts

to expand enrollment will continue, Father Falcone said.

He noted that recruitment efforts over the past year have already begun to pay off, with approximately 50 new students taking courses at SBI during the spring and fall semesters in 1992, and with total enrollment reaching 160 students.

As for the school's finances, SBI now has "a clear idea of what amount we got to be raising" under Higman's direction, Father Falcone commented.

After his sabbatical, Father Falcone will return to the institute as professor of New Testament studies. He joined the St. Bernard's faculty in that capacity in 1967. The Rochester native also served as the seminary's academic

## Clifton Springs parish to open home for the terminally ill

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

CLIFTON SPRINGS — For nearly four years, Jean Cass and some fellow parishioners at Newark's St. Michael Church have been looking for a house in Newark to use as a hospice for the terminally ill.

Cass will continue to search for such a house in Newark. For now, however, her attention is focused down the road in Clifton Springs.

Cass has joined an ecumenical coalition of concerned individuals from communities throughout Wayne and Ontario counties to create the "St. Felix House of John," a hospice-like facility to be located in a house owned by St. Felix Parish, 12 Hibbard Ave.

When it opens early next year, the House of John will provide a homelike setting for up to two terminally ill individuals at one time, according to Cass. It will also be the only facility of its kind in Ontario County, the Newark nurse added.

"Sometimes, people don't have what is called 'the primary care giver,' when they are terminally ill," said Cass, who currently volunteers in Rochester hospices at Mount Carmel and Corpus Christ parishes. "A lot of people don't have a support system."

Individuals receiving care at House of John will receive round-the-clock support from volunteers. Although the guests' primary physicians will provide medical care, other doctors will also volunteer to assist at the house.

Guests will not have to pay for the care they receive. Monetary support for House of John will come entirely from donations, Cass said.

The house, located at 14 Spring St., will not serve as an official hospice as defined by state regulations, Cass cautioned.

"We have the hospice philosophy, but we can't call ourselves a hospice," Cass noted. "We are an 'alternative living arrangement.' What we are really is just 'family.'"

The house became available in the fall of 1991, when St. Felix's Parish Council decided to stop using it as rental property, according to Jim Cheney, the council's president.

In searching for an alternative use for the house, Cheney contacted Judy Kekic, director of Compassionate Care, a Canandaigua-based program in which volunteers visit the homes of sick people.

"I had an idea for a Ronald McDonald-type house," Cheney recalled. "When I approached her and she explained what a hospice was, I thought it was a great idea."

Shortly after his preliminary discussions with Kekic, Cheney contacted Cass, who had written to St. Felix's pastor, Father Anthony Calimeri, about the possibility of opening a hospice in Newark.

After a meeting between Cheney, Kekic and Cass, the idea for House of John developed. In addition to Cheri Fontaine of Palmyra, they form the core team overseeing the project.

Cheney noted that although the house will be run as a parish ministry, it will be separately incorporated and financed.

Kekic, who is also a nurse, said that the house is structurally sound but it will need some minor repair and preparatory work. House of John will be ready for guests by early 1993, she predicted.

The core team is now searching for volunteers. Approximately 50 people showed up for an informational meeting Sept. 16 at St. Felix Church. Kekic said other people have called to express interest, and another meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

"Because I have been training people in the area for the last seven years," Kekic said, "I'm fairly confident there are people here who are looking forward to doing something like this."

The first training session for volunteers will take place later this month, Cass said. That training will consist of such basic techniques as caring for bedridden individuals; how to give bed baths; how to assist with meals; and how to move patients in the beds to avoid bed sores.

In addition, "We'll teach them how to become good listeners while talking to the patients and their families," Cass said.

As part of the care provided at House of John, volunteers will stay in touch with each guest's family for at least a year after the patient dies.

Although the training process is get-

ting underway for volunteers, the core team is seeking donations of medical equipment, carpeting, paint, and such basic supplies as stamps, paper, sheets and pillow cases.

**EDITORS' NOTE:** Donations to the house may be sent to: St. Felix House of John, 14 Spring St., Clifton Springs, N.Y., 14423. Individuals interested in volunteering should call Cass, 315/331-1543, or Kekic, 716/394-7521.

### Correction:

An ad that appeared in the September 24th issue of the *Courier* listed two retreats at the Cenacle to be conducted by Fr. John Walchars. Fr. Walchars, who was originally scheduled to give the retreats, passed away in July. The two retreats will instead be held in honor of his memory.

They are:

**Oct. 22 - Autumn Evening of Prayer** for men and women in loving remembrance of Fr. John Walchars, SJ. 7-9pm

**Oct. 23-25 Weekend to Remember** and give thanks for the gift of Fr. John Walchars, SJ.