

Bishop Clark explains  
Mass for gays  
- Pages 2, 3



Armchair college fair  
pullout section  
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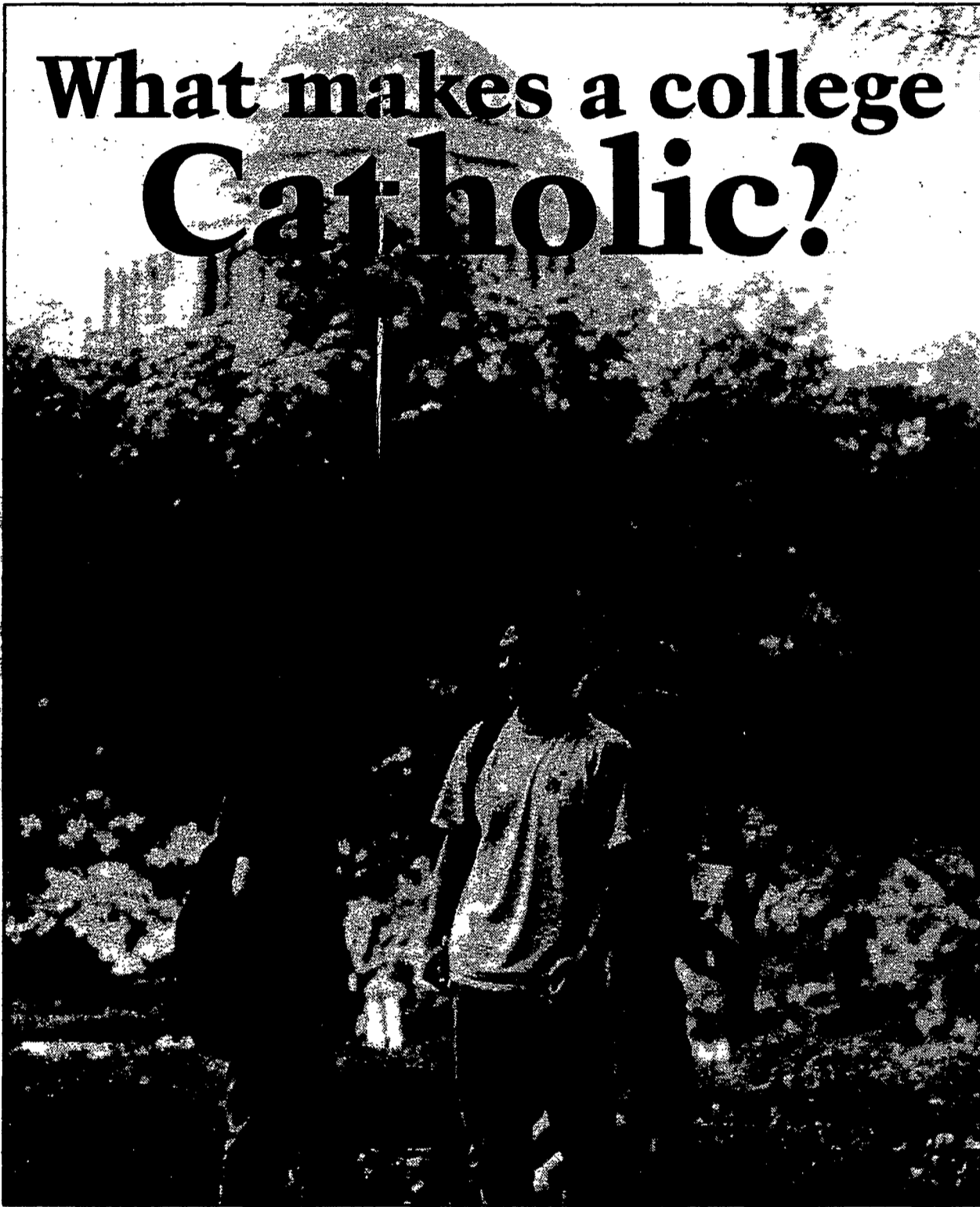
Dorothy Day movie  
due in Rochester  
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# Catholic Courier

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## What makes a college Catholic?



Matthew Barrick

The Catholic University of America

### Identities changed with times

Having attended Catholic schools most of her life, Molly McNamara would like to see that trend continue into her college years.

Molly, a senior at Our Lady of Mercy High School, has applied to three colleges with Catholic traditions: Nazareth College in Rochester; St. Bonaventure University in Olean; and Loyola College in Maryland.

Although she has also filed applications with non-Catholic institutions, Molly felt that attending a college with a Catholic tradition "would certainly be an added benefit."

"There's a sense of community, and the teachers really care about you. And, you'd be able to share your faith with the school community," remarked Molly, a parishioner at St. Thomas More Church in Brighton.

While such ideals may indeed be the backbone of many Catholic colleges, the level at which this influence is displayed may vary from school to school in light of a number of changes since the 1960s.

The colleges' identities have evolved alongside social and economic movements, and changes in the Catholic Church itself. As a result, several gray areas

remain today in regard to what makes a college "Catholic."

Two good examples lie right within the Diocese of Rochester. Although both Nazareth College and St. John Fisher College were founded by religious orders, their current presidents refer to both as Catholic colleges in an *historical* sense.

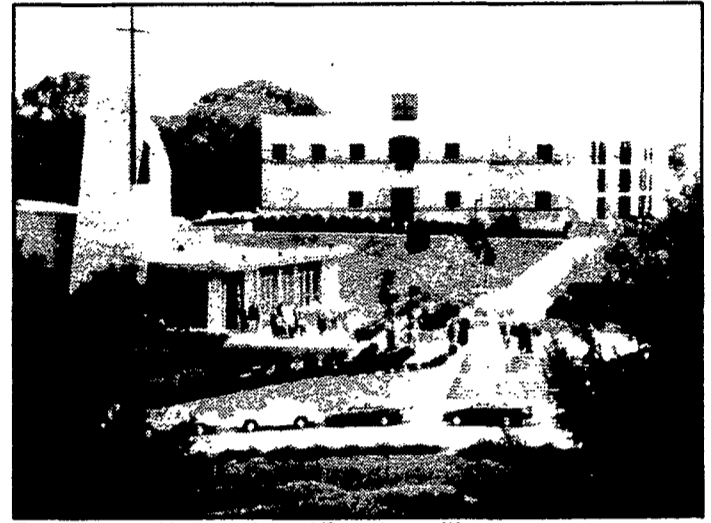
Rose Marie Beston, president of Nazareth College, describes her school as "an independent institution with a unique history."

Meanwhile, Katherine Keough, president of St. John Fisher, defines her school as "a liberal arts college in the Catholic and Basilian tradition."

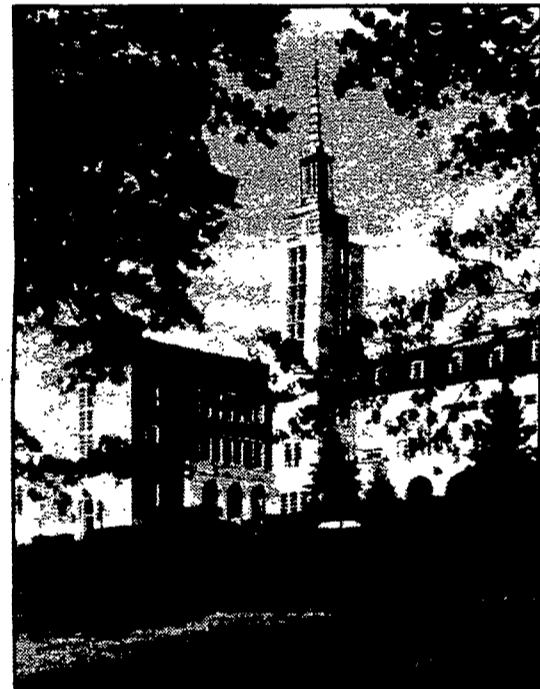
Yet neither college is listed in the *Official Catholic Directory* under "Colleges and Universities" and therefore they are not considered official Catholic institutions. Both, however, are members of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.

Nazareth, founded in 1924 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, and St. John Fisher, begun in 1948 by the Basilian Fathers, are now operated independently by lay

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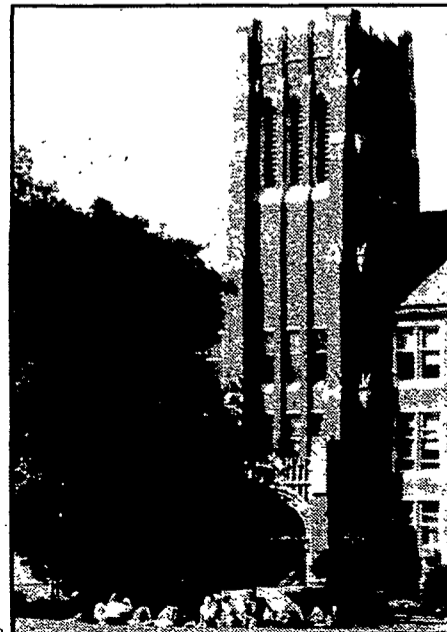
Franciscan University of Steubenville



St. John Fisher College, Kearney Hall



Le Moyne College, Main Campus, Green Hall



Nazareth College, Smyth Hall

Story by Mike Latona