

St. Bernard's Institute to exit Colgate in 2001

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — St. Bernard's Institute has announced plans to move its offices from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, 1100 S. Goodman St., by September 2001.

SBI's president, Sister Patricia A. Schoelles, SSJ, announced the move in an Oct. 29 press release.

"We've experienced some growth in programs and numbers, and we think we're ready to establish our identity as an independent entity," she said in a phone interview Nov. 2.

She said the school's board of trustees voted unanimously Sept. 30 to make the move, and received approval from the Diocese of Rochester Oct. 23.

SBI currently occupies 12 offices at Colgate, and shares library and classroom space with Colgate. Opened in 1981, SBI has been located at Colgate ever since. SBI began operating the same year St. Bernard's Seminary on Lake Avenue closed. SBI grew out of the seminary's old graduate theology department, which chose to adopt the name of the former seminary when it became the institute.

Sister Schoelles said SBI and Colgate will continue to share library and some classroom space after the move. The schools are also exploring resurrecting the Rochester Center for Theological Study, a consortium that the two institutions operated for several years, but which became inactive by the early 1990s, she said.

Sister Schoelles said that no site for the new school building has been selected yet, and she added that it is unlikely SBI will hold any kind of capital campaign to fi-

nance the move. She also said that the new SBI building will probably be chosen, in part, for its proximity to Colgate.

Indeed, Sister Schoelles stressed that the move does not mean the school is ending its cooperative relationship with Colgate, sealed in a 1981 covenant, and said that the SBI's board had unanimously passed the following resolution:

"The Board of St. Bernard's Institute endorses the value of the ecumenical dimension of its educational mission and is committed to explore shared ecumenical theological education with Colgate Rochester Divinity School ..."

Dr. James H. Evans, president of Colgate, said his school was disappointed that St. Bernard's was leaving, but understood why SBI's board decided it had to move.

"We appreciate the last 18 years or so that St. Bernard's has been on this campus," he said.

Sister Schoelles cited several reasons for SBI's needing a new facility, including SBI's steadily growing enrollment over the last decade. SBI currently has 149 graduate students, but she noted that the school had only 80 graduate students in 1990. SBI peaked at 165 graduate students in 1996, she said, and has declined only slightly since then.

She added that the school wants a new building so that it can expand its programs to include distance learning, which would use televised classes to teach off-campus students in such places as Ithaca.

The president also said that SBI wants to become a nationally renowned theological school that could attract students from outside New York state. The school is already well-known in New York, she noted, pointing out that it currently operates an exten-



Greg Francis/Staff photographer

A 'shocking' open house

Kailly Vay, 11, a sixth-grader at St. Margaret Mary School, tries out a static charging device in a science classroom during Our Lady of Mercy High School's open house Oct. 29. Physics teacher James Ditzel holds a mirror at right. About 700 parents and students attended.

sion program in Albany that boasts 83 students. She added that students from as far away as the Diocese of Syracuse also attend SBI classes in Rochester.

Other factors have led the school to consider moving, she said. For example, in the last four years, SBI has become the ministry formation center for the Diocese of Rochester, Sister Schoelles explained. The school has 100 students in its ministry certification program, she said.

Both SBI and Colgate are scheduling more night classes, making it more difficult for the schools to share classrooms, she said. The new SBI building will have improved classrooms, seminar rooms, wor-

ship space and dining facilities, she said.

Sister Schoelles attributed the school's increasing enrollment mostly to the growth in the number of lay women pursuing theological studies, noting they currently comprise two-thirds of the school's graduate students. Explaining the large numbers of women at the school, Sister Schoelles said that, contrary to popular perception, many women are finding ample opportunity for ministry in the church despite the fact they are prohibited from priestly and diaconal ordination.

"One of the most creative movements going on is the emergence of lay ministries," she concluded.

We're 85% leased. Call us today!

"I Fell in Love with the Incredible Value."



"When looking into retirement communities, I made sure I understood the variety of options available to me. With no entrance fee, I feel I get a real value because I'm not locked into any type of program. And having that kind of freedom allows me to travel extensively, which I have always enjoyed. Then, when I return to the security and comfort of my home at Chapel Oaks, I continue to relive my excursions by presenting travel photos of my fabulous trips, both near and far."

Marimerte Pla-Pinson
Bronxport, New York

The French call it *joie de vivre*, or love of life. That ability to approach life joyfully and fully appreciate all that each day has to offer. Every day, residents of Chapel Oaks, Rochester's newest and finest rental retirement community, are finding the joy of retirement living. Once you've experienced life at Chapel Oaks, you may find yourself falling in love with the true joy of living all over again.

Fall in love with the *tradition* of St. Ann's of Greater Rochester, Inc., who for 125 years has provided senior adults with a truly fulfilling retirement lifestyle. The *location* of being perfectly situated on 14 beautiful, secluded acres of the St. Ann's campus and just minutes away from Rochester's finest shopping, entertainment and cultural activities. The *independence* to continue an active lifestyle without routine maintenance and tiresome daily chores. The *value* of a rental concept with no entrance fee, which makes Chapel Oaks Rochester's most affordable retirement living option. The *convenience* of exceptional services and amenities, and the spacious one- and two-bedroom

apartment homes. Or, fall in love with the *security and peace of mind* that comes from having priority access to a full continuum of health care services right on the St. Ann's campus.

Retirement is your time to seize the day and enjoy life to its fullest; to experience your "joie de vivre." Please call (716) 342-3052 for more information about Chapel Oaks or to arrange your personal tour. Once you see all that we have to offer, you may just find yourself falling in love with the true joy of living all over again!

CHAPEL OAKS

A GROWING TRADITION.

1550 Portland Avenue Rochester, NY 14621

(716) 342-3052

An affiliate of St. Ann's of Greater Rochester, Inc.

