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## New Jersey Catholic Records Newsletter, Vol. 6, No.2

New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

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# *New Jersey* **Catholic Records Newsletter**

VOLUME VI NO. 2

SPRING 1987



*Chapel of Christ the King on the campus of Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington.*



## Immaculate Conception Seminary



*Seminarians on the steps of President's Hall, home of the Seminary before its removal to Darlington in 1927.*

The primary purpose of the Seminary is to prepare students for the ordained ministries of the church by training them for a life of prayer and worship, by leading them to an understanding of the life and witness of the Church . . . and by helping them acquire the necessary tools for teaching and preaching, for pastoral care and parish administration.

This succinct statement from the 1975-1976 Bulletin of the Darlington School of Theology summarizes the mission of Immaculate Conception Seminary from its foundation in 1861 by James Roosevelt Bayley, first bishop of Newark, through today. As it has always been, the diocesan Seminary is under the direct authority of the archbishop, who "selects and appoints the officials and professors, formulates the requirements for admission and, in general, provides for the enforcement of all regulations concerning Seminary administration emanating from the Holy See."

In 1926 an "encroachment of urban life" and the increasing number of students led to the removal of the Seminary from the South Orange campus it had shared with Seton Hall College "to a more extensive and more secluded location." As the seminary catalog proudly stated in 1930,

During that period, a great number of priests, remarkable for piety, knowledge, prudence and sacerdotal zeal, went forth, laboring with great fruit in this diocese as well as in other sections of the Church. With few exceptions, the secular priesthood of the Diocese of Newark received its ecclesiastical training in the Immaculate Conception Seminary.

After extensive consideration, a tract of 1,100 acres formerly belonging to the Crocker estate at Darlington in the Ramapo Valley of Bergen County was selected. Forty-five seminarians took up their work at Darlington on April 27, 1927, seven months after Bishop John J. O'Connor had solemnly blessed the new location on October 12, 1926.

While located at Darlington, the Seminary supplied board, tuition, and "necessary furniture." Seminarians were obliged to support all other expenses — personal clothing, medication, books for personal use, stationery. In 1948 "personal supplies" included

a black suit, a black overcoat and hat, a cassock (a Roman cassock, i.e., one with the buttons down the front and without a sash), a zimarra, a serge biretta, three plain linen surplices, one dozen clerical collars, a black necktie, black shoes (with rubber heels), umbrella, black raincoat, rubbers and arctics, black book-bag, a bath robe, towels, and two laundry bags. . . Bathing suit should have a top that covers back and front, and trunks the style of gym trunks.

Conditions for admission to the Seminary in 1955 included completion of the freshman and sophomore years at Seton Hall University, with the recommendation of the president and faculty. In



*Milton and Rita Lewis Hall, home of Immaculate Conception Seminary on the South Orange campus of Seton Hall University.*



1965, students had also to present proof of having received at least three of the Salk or Sabin vaccines. In 1975, a reading knowledge of Latin and Greek and at least one modern language was highly recommended. In 1985 a Bachelor of Arts degree, adequate scores on the Graduate Record Examination and several "concisely written 500 word statements" were necessary.

The Seminary maintained its affiliation with Seton Hall University until August, 1972, when it was independently incorporated as a graduate school of theology empowered to grant degrees in pastoral ministry and theology. From classes in dogmatic and moral theology and canon law conducted in Latin, with "examinations in the same language," to present-day classes sponsored by departments of biblical studies, systematic theology, historical studies, pastoral theology, moral theology and more, the Seminary has continued its aim of "exploring the Catholic tradition, reflecting on its meaning, and showing how reflection makes a difference in life."

In February, 1982 the governing boards of Seton Hall University and the Seminary announced a re-affiliation of the two institutions,

## Corrigan Journal to be published

The New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission and the New Jersey Historical Society will jointly publish this autumn the diocesan journal of Bishop Michael A. Corrigan, second bishop of Newark and the last bishop whose diocese included all of New Jersey. The journal continues a work begun by James Roosevelt Bayley, first bishop of Newark, and takes the diocesan story from Bayley's farewell to his priests in October, 1872 through Corrigan's own departure in November, 1880, to become coadjutor to Cardinal McCloskey of New York.

Corrigan's day-to-day entries reveal the struggles and problems of the Church in New Jersey during the 1870's, a period of rapid growth in the midst of economic hardship following the Panic of 1873. The young bishop crisscrossed the state, establishing

and a subsequent return of the Seminary to the South Orange campus. In September, 1984, faculty and students of Immaculate Conception Seminary occupied their new quarters, which were officially blessed by Archbishop Pio Laghi, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, on April 11, 1985.

Monsignor Harold P. Darcy, then rector of the seminary, wrote in 1974,

The Seminary is a community inspired by charity, a community of faith, an academic community, and an apostolic community open to modern needs . . . The priesthood has need of a special kind of man, a man who is prepared to accept the rigorous program of preparation and to extend himself more than he ever has before. The challenge of his development constitutes the Seminary's role and process.

Preserved in the archives of the Archdiocese of Newark and of Seton Hall University, materials and records like those used here to illuminate the history and mission of Immaculate Conception Seminary form a fascinating and crucial administrative, cultural and historical context for our endeavors of today and tomorrow.

new parishes, blessing churches, convents, schools and hospitals, inspecting, encouraging and directing the work of a growing diocesan clergy, and welcoming the entrance of many religious communities into the life of New Jersey Catholicism. As he traveled through the state, Corrigan noted many of the developments taking place and thus provides readers with fresh insights into the history not only of the Catholic Church but of many aspects of New Jersey history.

Corrigan's hand-written text, contained in two bound ledgers, has been transcribed and annotated by Joseph F. Mahoney, professor of history at Seton Hall University and director of the Catholic Historical Records Commission, and Peter F. Wosh, former archivist of Seton Hall University. The project has been supported by grants from the New Jersey Committee for the Humanities, the Archdiocese of Newark, and the Friends of the Ar-

## Dougherty Fund Established

In memory of its founding chairman, Most Reverend John J. Dougherty, S.S.D., D.D., the commission has established a fund for the purpose of carrying on the work which he so strongly supported and which formed a main activity of the last decade of his life. The fund, it is hoped, will provide an endowment, the income from which will support the ongoing activities of the commission, including among these its research, oral history, and publication programs.

As chairman of the commission, Bishop Dougherty constantly sought to further its objectives both by his leadership and by his constant encouragement of research and publication relating to the history of Catholicism in New Jersey. It is most appropriate that the fund which seeks to further that work should be named in his honor.

Contributions may be sent to New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission—Dougherty Fund, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey, 07079-2696.



*Michael Augustine Corrigan.*

chives of Seton Hall University. Publication of the volume in the fall will be one of the activities marking the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Archdiocese of Newark.



## Meet the Commission

Born in Sayreville, New Jersey in 1940, Father M. Joseph Mokrzycki grew up there in Our Lady of Victories parish and attended the parochial school. Upon completing high school at St. Peter's, New Brunswick, he attended St. Charles College, Catonsville, Maryland, then continued his studies for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore. He was ordained by Bishop George W. Ahr in 1965 and served as assistant pastor, first at St. Hedwig's in Trenton and then at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Long Branch, New Jersey.

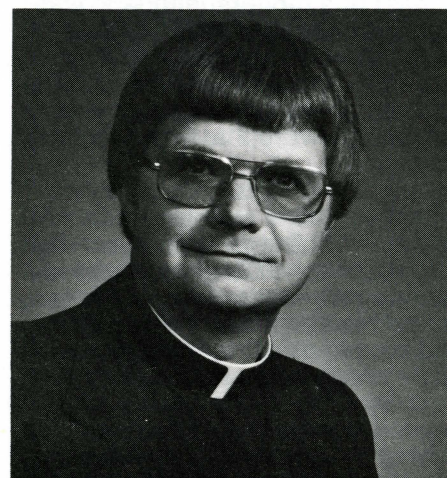
In 1968 he pursued graduate study, obtaining a master's degree in American Studies from Seton Hall University and in 1972, an M.A. in American history from New York University. From 1971 to 1978 he served as Newman chaplain at

Monmouth College in West Long Branch and founded Bethlehem, the Catholic Center there. During this period he also served as director of Campus Ministry for the diocese of Trenton and representative of the province of Newark on the national campus ministry advisory board of the United States Catholic Conference.

Among his works are "Life and Times at the North American Phalanx," published in *The Monmouth Historian*, Spring, 1974, and several pamphlets on the history of the parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Long Branch.

Father Mokrzycki joined the New Jersey Catholic Historical Records Commission in 1978 and has served at different times on the public programs and publications committees.

Since 1977 he has been pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Long Branch, chaplain to the Knights of Columbus, and has also been active in youth work in the Monmouth County area.



*Reverend M. Joseph Mokrzycki*

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