

...Fr. Jude Excels

ordained to the priesthood in 1956. Since then, he has devoted his full energies to furthering the educational apostolate of Belmont Abbey.

Above all else, Fr. Jude is a monk and a priest. It is from this deep well of spiritual life that he draws his dedication to the monastic life and the fulfillment of whatever is asked of him. The motto of the Benedictine Order, *Ora et Labora* (Pray and Work), is exemplified in his quiet accomplishment of duty. He cherishes an abiding love for his religious community and the fellow Benedictines with whom he shares a life commitment.

Fr. Jude has received a rare gift for organization and attention to detail. This enabled him to coordinate the building program undertaken at the college during the nineteen-sixties. During this period the school added three dormitories, a dining facility, a science building, and the physical education - recreation center. He was the prime mover in putting together the proposals for federal funds to assist in obtaining these new buildings and worked closely with the architects and contractors throughout the actual construction process.

Despite his attachment to the demanding tasks of administration, Fr. Jude causes astonishment among visitors to the campus when they learn of his accomplishments in the area of manual labor. For the past year and a half his current project is the installation of an adequate system of campus lighting. Almost single-handed he has dug the trenches, laid the electrical conduits, managed the pouring of concrete bases, erected the light standards, attached the fixtures, and connected the wiring. Students admit that they grow tired just watching his indefatigable output.

Lest the impression be created that Fr. Jude does nothing but work all the time, he manages on occasion to enjoy fishing and sailing, and is a staunch believer in physical fitness -- each afternoon he can be seen, rain or shine, doing his two mile run. He recalls with delight his camper tour of the Rocky Mountains, Yellowstone, and the Grand Canyon during June of 1973. The

glories of nature have really gotten to him and whetted his appetite to visit other scenic spots such as the "Outer Banks of North Carolina and the Pacific Coast.

Crossroads wishes to salute this monk, priest, and administrator, and looks forward to many more years of his splendid contributions to Belmont Abbey College.

All-Stars Play For UF

Belmont Abbey College's Intramural All Star Team played a charity football game against Kings Business College, Monday evening, October 14, at the Independence High School field. Belmont Abbey posted the higher score but the Mecklenburg County United Fund was the real winner since the game's proceeds were donated to the local U.F.

Co-captains John Monaco and Ken Heretick led the 24 Abbey students taking part in the contest. A substantial crowd was on hand for the event.

The Abbey defense held Kings scoreless throughout the game, with a halftime score of 14-0. The final score was B.A.C. 26 - Kings 0. Two touchdowns were scored by Tom Spellany, while Heretick and George Wilkinson tallied one each. Monaco, the quarterback, scored the lone extra point.

...Soccer Team Wins

Area V regional tournament and probably face such teams as Erskine (last year's regional champs), Campbell College, and St. Bernards for the right to enter the N.A.I.A. national championship tournament in St. Louis on November 26-30.

Parochial Schools Are On Way Back

"Catholic schools seem to be on their way back" because Catholic education "has become more the concern of all the people" a Catholic college professor in Green Bay, Wis. said recently.

In contrast to the recent past when decreasing enrollment and lack of available teaching Religious forced schools to drop grades, some Catholic schools are now reinstating grades, said Dr. Raymond Clouthier, of St. Norbert College in Depere, Wis.

In the past, Clouthier said, the parish school was the concern of the pastor and perhaps a few teaching Sisters, but now local boards of education "have begun to find their place."

Clouthier said that money, apathy and the belief of some Catholic parents that their children could obtain an adequate education in public school caused the decreasing trend in Catholic school enrollment.

He contended that, while some public schools offer a "complete education," Catholic schools provide a "religious background and heritage" that students cannot find in public schools.

INSIGHT

by Fr. John Bradley

I had the dubious privilege of becoming a college president just when private colleges throughout the nation were entering into the worst financial crisis in their history. Over the last four years many private colleges have had to close their doors -- a list of them was published recently in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Nor are there any serious reasons to doubt the prophets of doom who forecast that hundreds more will be forced to close over the next ten years or so.

Although one cannot but be saddened by this situation, it can, I believe, eventually lead to a stronger and healthier higher education establishment throughout the nation. Those colleges and universities that respond to the challenge of this crisis (and this applies in some degree to the public sector also) will emerge as much better and stronger institutions; those which do not will fall by the wayside.

What, then, will be the fate of Belmont Abbey College in this unprecedented crisis? Over the past four and a half years, I have seen sufficient response here to the crisis to give me guarded optimism that the Abbey will emerge a better and stronger college. During that relatively short period in the Abbey's history, a remarkable number of changes have been effected that probably would not even have been thought of, let alone accomplished, had we not been powerfully spurred by the crisis. For instance, the most needed and most fundamental change, publicly announced by Abbot Edmund at our 1974 Commencement exercises, is the new structure of college governance that will bring to our Board the expertise and influence of a number of lay Trustees. Again, a little more than a year ago, the transition to coeducation was accomplished swiftly and successfully and is generally recognized to have contributed much to the College apart altogether from considerations of enrollment. The emphasis placed on our identity as a Catholic institution whose goals and purposes, therefore, transcend sheer academic pursuits continues to contribute to that self-understanding without which no college such as ours can succeed.

In my opinion, failure to change in any one of these areas -- governance, coeducation, and identity -- would have robbed the Abbey of the chance to survive this crisis, and our progress in these fundamental areas is a most positive response that bodes well for the future. From a long-range point of view, the initiation of the land development program provides financial prospects for the years ahead that furnish a strong psychological boost right now -- another positive response to the crisis.

Many other changes, less fundamental but extremely important, have been achieved, prompted also, I believe, by the awareness of Trustees, administration and faculty of the urgent need to face up realistically to the circumstances of our times: curriculum reform, personalized advisement of students, new programs such as the Distribution Management major (unique in the nation), a degree in General Studies for military personnel, the Re-Entry Program for more mature students, a program for students studying for the diocesan priesthood, the establishing of the Belmont Abbey College - Wake Forest University Ecumenical Institute, a program for selected local high school students, evening classes in continuing education, expanded efforts and additional staff in recruiting students, significant yearly growth in contributions to the College. For these and other new thrusts, faculty, administrators, Trustees, must be given great credit.

When we consider all of these positive responses to the crisis in higher education, I believe it is not over-optimistic to say that over the past few years we have seen at the Abbey sufficient response to justify the belief that the Abbey will eventually emerge a stronger and better college. However, the road ahead is dangerous and difficult, and all of us must continue to respond well to the severe challenge of our times. Ultimate success will depend on God's continuing help, maximum cooperation and effort on our part, and on the prayers and support of all our alumni and friends.

What's New With You

If you have moved, changed jobs or recently completed a phase of post-college study, help keep us up to date.

What's new with me is:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Other information _____