



# CROSSROADS

## Belmont Abbey College

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ABBOT JUDE CLEARY, O.S.B.

*The Right Rev. Jude Cleary*

## Abbatial Blessing To Be Bestowed On Fifth Abbot

The monks of Belmont Abbey announced on Wednesday, Nov. 26, the Abbatial Blessing of the fifth Abbot of Belmont Abbey, the Right Reverend Jude Cleary, O.S.B., will be held on Friday, December 19, at 4:00 p.m. in the Abbey Cathedral. Conferring the blessing will be the Most Reverend Thomas A. Donnellan, Archbishop of Atlanta. Among the dignitaries expected for the occasion are the Apostolic Delegate in the United States, the Most Reverend Jean Jadot, and a number of bishops and abbots from various parts of the country. Abbot Martin Burne, O.S.B., President of the American Cassinese Federation of Benedictine Monasteries, will deliver the homily. Because of limited space

in the Cathedral, attendance is by invitation only.

The liturgical rite of the blessing completes the process of choosing an Abbot which began at Belmont Abbey on July 22, when the monks of the Abbey elected Abbot Jude. The required confirmation of the election by the Sacred Congregation for Bishops in Rome was announced on November 4.

### "ABBEY NULLIUS" TO BE DISSOLVED

The monks also announced "Abbey Nullius" designation will cease within the organization of the Catholic Church. It will cease following the centennial celebration of the Monastery in 1976. This decision, taken by Pope Paul VI, has its origin in the history of the

Catholic Church in North Carolina and in the basic purpose of an Abbey Nullius, which is to offer pastoral service in an essentially missionary territory.

In 1868, the Catholic Church was formally established in North Carolina, as a Vicariate Apostolic which, in 1888, became the responsibility of Belmont Abbey under the leadership of its first Abbot, Bishop Leo Haid, O.S.B. The number of churches and of Catholics increased steadily during Haid's thirty-six year tenure. At his death in 1924, the Church had progressed to the point that the founding of a Diocese, the final stage of organization, was indicated and implemented as the Diocese of Raleigh.

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Presented Bene Mereritis Award

## Father Cuthbert Honored For Exceptional Accomplishments

On October 18, 1975 the following homily was offered by Abbot Jude Cleary, O.S.B. in recognition of Father Cuthbert Allen.

by Abbot Jude Cleary, O.S.B.

My standing here and presuming to offer a homily on this occasion seems at once a signal honor for me and an exercise in futility. It is honor because my long and cherished association and my genuine friendship with Father Cuthbert have been among the great graces of my life. He has been for me one of those rare figures in life who blend reality and romance in such wise as

to seem much larger than life, who have feet planted firmly in the possibility of the practical but minds that embrace with enthusiasm and daring that which common men regard as the impossible. He has been for me the man of high achievement, ever approachable, and a gentle and able mentor.

Honor, indeed, my task is, but futile as well, for how does one in so brief a time as we have, or in whatever amount of time, match words and phrases to the merit of life earned over so many years of dedication to those virtues most admired and esteemed by

decent and humane men and women. Rather than by slipping into hollow platitudes the occasion might be better served by a reverent silence. However, convention requires words. So, I ask your indulgence even as I disclaim any adequacy in expressing what each of us here would dearly wish, namely by a truly fitting statement to recognize and honor an exemplary man.

It occurred to me that an interesting approach might lie in reviewing the citations we have used in years past when conferring honorary degrees in the College. Father Cuthbert has always

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In the Belmont Abbey Cathedral Abbot Walter Coggin reads and formally presents the Bene Mereritis Award from Pope Paul VI to Father Cuthbert Allen, O.S.B., in recognition of his exceptional accomplishments and more than forty years service.