



Father Kenneth

Fascinated With Music Since Age 3

As several visitors from New England emerged from the Abbey Cathedral after the Sunday Conventual Mass, they were effusive in praise of the splendid tonality of the organ. At the console of this regal instrument was Fr. Kenneth Geyer, O.S.B., who has filled the positions of Cathedral organist and choir director since 1949.

Fr. Kenneth hails from Lancaster, N.Y. His musical career began at the ripe age of three when he first became fascinated with the family piano. However, it was on the occasion of a visit several years later of Arturo Toscanini to the

home of a relative that he was inspired by the famous maestro to study piano. His young years were uneventful -- filled with all of the normal activities of a schoolboy and punctuated during vacations with the oc-

cupations available to boys to earn spending money such as a paper route and clerking in the neighborhood drug store.

After graduating from St. Mary's High, he came south to continue his education and enrolled in Belmont Abbey Junior College in the fall of 1944. His attraction to religious life and the priesthood which had begun during his days as an altar boy now led him to join his older brother, Fr. Raymond, who had become a monk of Belmont Abbey several years earlier. He cherishes warm recollections of his novitiate year spent at St. Benedict's Abbey located in Atchison, Kansas -- on a bluff overlooking the broad valley of the Missouri River. He remained on to complete his undergraduate studies at St. Benedict's College and was graduated as a bachelor in music.

Next came his theological studies which he pursued in the seminary at Belmont. During these years of preparation he was also teaching in the Abbey prep school and college. He was ordained to the priesthood in June of 1953 by Bishop Joseph Hodges. For the next two years he was assigned to the Benedictine Priory in Richmond, Va. where he taught Latin, English, and religion in the high school. In 1959 he was

recalled to Belmont to rejoin the college faculty as an instructor in French and music.

The past fifteen years have witnessed a remarkable productivity by Fr. Kenneth. For several summers he did graduate work at the Catholic University of America until the completion of his Master's degree in musicology. During the regular academic year, he was fully engaged with his courses in music, his piano students, and French classes. Still he somehow found time to play in and, for a time, to conduct the Abbey band. He also directed a successful dramatic production by the Abbey Players.

A grant from the Reynold's Foundation in the summer of 1967 enabled him to study the audio-visual method of teaching French in the CREDIF Center at the University of Besancon in France. He continued this work the following summer at the Chilton Institute in Philadelphia and was awarded a certificate in pedagogy. Again in the summer of 1973 he was recipient of a study grant for the arts and he headed for France and Italy. These experiences resulted in his introducing a new course in the visual arts and music appreciation which has become quite popular with the students.

He enjoys dabbling in oil painting and on his own has acquired a facility of expression with the brush. His second love is gardening and he devotes many of the moments he can snatch from his heavy schedule of assignments to growing flowers. The tragic fire which destroyed the greenhouse several years ago brought to an abrupt halt his experiments to develop an exotic scarlet African violet. He has since had to be content with working out of doors with roses, tulips, and marigolds.

Abbey students have found in him a close friend and confidant as the Chapter Counsellor for the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. Now the Chairman of the Department of Music, Fr. Kenneth has hopes for the eventual establishment of a full concentration of courses leading to the bachelor of arts in music.

To foster this development he has founded a special fund for the purchase of a practice organ with an inheritance left to him by his aunt. He plans to solicit contributions for this project from alumni and friends of the college. His enthusiasm for the arts and music gives a bright prospect to the department. The faculty and students all join in wishing Fr. Kenneth every success in achieving these goals.

This is a sociology questionnaire on the subject of dormitory visitation. That is, should members of one sex be allowed to visit in per-

sonal living quarters of members of the opposite sex. We are attempting to get a valid response on this subject, and therefore would ap-

preciate your participation and honest opinion.

Abbey College, Belmont, N.C. 28012.

Please return to the Chairman of the Sociology Dept., Belmont

1) I am a (n)
 parent alumni member, board of Adv.

2) On the question of male-female dorm visitation,
 I do not favor any type of visitation
 I favor a total type of visitation.
 I favor a limited type of visitation such as (please specify)
 limited hours on weekends
 total hours on weekends.
 limited hours during the week.
 student option by dorms and wings.

3) I think that college students (are, are not) mature enough to accept the responsibility of visitation.

4) If the college adopted a policy of visitation, I
 would increase my donation.
 would decrease my donation.
 would not change my donation.
 do not donate at this time.

5) If the college adopted a policy of visitation, I
 would still send my son-daughter to the Abbey.
 would not send my son-daughter to the Abbey.
 would allow my son-daughter to make his-her own decision on coming to the Abbey.

6) I (have, have not) discussed the question of dorm visitation with my son-daughter.

7) My religious belief are
 Catholic Protestant Baptist
 Methodist Other

8) If the college adopted a policy of total visitation, I feel
 that the students academic studies would be impaired.
 that the students academic studies would not be impaired.

9) If the college adopted a policy of limited visitation, I feel
 that the students academic studies would be impaired.
 that the students academic studies would not be impaired.

10) If alumni, please indicate graduation class. _____

II) Comments:

CROSSROADS

Published bi-monthly by Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, North Carolina.

Acting Editor:
R. HOWARD SUGGS

Photos by:
STEVE OHNESORGE
JEFF SALISTAD

Contributions by:
MARY COOK
FR. BRADLEY
FR. JAMES
ABBOT JUDE
AND STAFF

Second class postage paid at Belmont, N.C. 28012