



# CROSSROADS

## Belmont Abbey College

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### Well Done Faithful Servant

By FR. JOHN P. BRADLEY

Since Father Cuthbert died on Thursday, December 1, the many newspaper articles and editorials that have appeared eulogizing him have touched on different qualities that distinguished the life of this good man. They have praised him as a man whose Christianity transcended denominational boundaries and prompted his lifelong involvement with many good causes in our local community. They have enumerated the ways in which he has been recognized over the years as a leader in higher education throughout the Southeast. They have told of his humor, his friendships with the famous, his playfulness, his loyalty, and his readiness at any time to assist whomsoever needed help.

All of these things were, of course, among Father Cuthbert's many fine qualities, but the outstanding quality that has always impressed me and has won my admiration since I first came to know him in 1952 was

his total commitment to Belmont Abbey College. The fact that so many people, far and wide, speak of him and think of him as Mr. Belmont Abbey, and indeed will continue to do so, is merely one way people have chosen to express Father Cuthbert's absolute, unwavering, and total commitment to his work for the College.

This remarkable commitment and dedication, day in and day out, year after year, for half a century, would be remarkable in any age. In our time, when commitment and dedication are seemingly in rather short supply, Father Cuthbert's commitment and dedication to Belmont Abbey College shines forth like a beacon. Here was a man who had the rich internal resources to face each day with fresh enthusiasm and unflinching good humor for all those years. Nothing seemed ever to "get him down": not the countless frustrations that college presidents know only too well, and he carried the burden of

three separate assignments as chief executive of the College (1936-43; 1946-48; 1956-60); not the lack of appreciation that was too often his lot; not the exhausting schedule he chose to keep, rising early each day and working often till well after midnight, seven days a week. I believe, it was his deep spirituality, for Father Cuthbert was nothing if not a thoroughly Christian man, and his total commitment to Belmont Abbey College and to people generally sprang from his total commitment to his Christian faith. His Catholic Christianity prompted him to be, in Dietrich Bonhoeffer's phrase, "a man for others", and his work in the College provided the setting for him "to see God in man" and to live his life accordingly.

Father Cuthbert was indeed "a man for others", all kinds of "others", but his greatest dedication was to the students of Belmont Abbey College -- generation after generation of students. It seems to me that modern educators could learn

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FR. CUTHBERT E. ALLEN, O.S.B.

### 'Mr. Belmont Abbey' Succumbs at 71

The Rev. Cuthbert Edward Allen, O.S.B., LL.D., executive vice president of Belmont Abbey College, died at 9:20 p.m. December 1 in the Belmont Abbey monastery.

Over Fr. Cuthbert's long illness, many alumni asked about him. He was truly a man beloved by all Abbey alumni, and indeed by many persons he contacted over the many years he was associated with the Abbey and before. For more than 40 years, he was an administrator of Belmont Abbey College.

Father Cuthbert was the rector and vice president (then administrative head) of the College from 1936-42; again from 1945-47, when he became dean of the College from 1947-54. He served as director of public relations and alumni affairs, 1955-69; was appointed president of the College 1956-60; vice chancellor 1960-62; director of development 1960-69. He was appointed executive vice president in 1969, a position he held until his death.

He was president of the North Carolina Conference of Colleges and Universities, and for six years was a member of the Commission of Colleges and Universities of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He was a member of the North Carolina State Committee on Elementary Education and served as a member of numerous education committees throughout the Southern region, including membership on the Committee to revise Standards of the Southern Association.

Listed in many Who's Who, Father Cuthbert was the recipient in 1963 of the Brotherhood Award given by the Gaston County Chapter, National Conference of Christians and Jews, received the Silver Medallion from the NCCJ, and was elected a charter member of the National Honor Corps of the NCCJ. In 1970 he was elected to the National Register of Prominent Americans. He was a director of the Belmont Chamber of Commerce and the American Red Cross; Chairman of the Tri-City Health Facilities Commission in Belmont; an honorary member of the North Carolina Lives of the Historical Record Association; a member of Pi Gamma Mu Social Science Honor Society; and founder of the Abbey Chapter of Delta Epsilon Sigma Honor Society. He received the Public Service Achievement Award from WSOC Broadcasting Company and the Charlotte Philosophical Society. He was an honorary Kentucky Colonel.

During a ceremony in 1975, Fr. Cuthbert received the Bene Merenti Award from Pope Paul VI in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the Catholic Church. The ceremony was the highlight of "Fr. Cuthbert Day," sponsored by the monks of Belmont

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### Will Remain at BAC

## President Resigns

Fr. John P. Bradley has submitted his resignation as president of Belmont Abbey College, effective May 31, 1978.

This was the announcement made by Abbot Jude Cleary, O.S.B., chairman of the Board of Trustees and chancellor of Belmont Abbey College at a press conference held Nov. 18. Abbot Jude stated that the Board of Trustees had, at its September meeting, with great reluctance accepted Fr. Bradley's resignation.

The Abbot went on to say, "Fr. Bradley's resignation was somewhat softened by the fact that he will continue to work for the College. When relieved of the multifarious duties that nowadays burden a college president, Fr. Bradley plans to concentrate on a few areas that are crucially important for sustaining the forward movement of the College achieved during his presidency."

Since becoming president of Belmont Abbey College in 1970, Fr. Bradley has been the architect of numerous significant changes. Prominent among these changes are the following: the College charter has been amended to include a majority of lay men and women



FR. JOHN P. BRADLEY

Benedictine monks; the College has become fully co-educational and enrollment has increased; the College's relation with the local community has become much closer in various ways; contributions to the College have increased substantially; and a number of physical improvements of the campus have been completed.

Commenting on his resignation and future plans, Fr. Bradley said, "I believe eight years as college president is a respectable period of service in what nowadays is a very demanding job. I am convinced by experience in that job that a private college such as Belmont

on the Board of Trustees which previously consisted of seven Abbey must concentrate as much effort and competence as possible on a few areas if it is to continue to progress as an institution of higher learning in these times. Among these areas are: constant improvement of techniques and procedures to enroll students who are truly capable of college studies; strengthening and expanding its links with its local community; and continuing its efforts to build a substantial endowment. These are the areas on which I plan to focus my attention in the future."

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees has approved the formation of a Search Committee for a new president and has decided that this committee's membership will consist of five members of the Board of Trustees, Abbot Jude Cleary, O.S.B., chairman, James G. Babb, Jr., E.F. Gallagher II, Fr. John Oetgen, O.S.B., and Basil L. Whitener; one faculty member elected by the instructional faculty, Dr. George Herndl; one student member elected by the Student Association, Mike Weber; and one member of the Alumni Association appointed by the Board of Trustees, Dr. Kevin Soden.