



# CROSSROADS

## Belmont Abbey College

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Abbot Peter (left) receives the golden staff from Bishop Begley (seated) in the presence of Br. Paul Shanley, O.S.B. (kneeling), acolyte; Fr. Mauricio West, O.S.B. (right), deacon; and Fr. David Brown, O.S.B. (center), master of ceremonies.

## Abbot Peter Blessed

Abbot Peter N. Stragand, O.S.B., sixth abbot of Belmont Abbey, received the abbatial blessing on Saturday, January 13 in the Belmont Abbey Church.

The liturgical rite of blessing was conferred by the Most Reverend Michael J. Begley, D.D., Bishop of Charlotte. Serving as deacon was the Reverend Mauricio West, O.S.B., deacon at St. Germaine's of Bethel Park, Pa., and a four-year theology student at St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pa.

Following the homily delivered by the Reverend Anselm H. Biggs, O.S.B., Abbot Peter was presented to Bishop Begley by his assistants, the Rev. Sebastian Doris, O.S.B., and the Rev. Benedict McDermott, O.S.B. He was questioned by the Bishop about his responsibility to the monastic community and to the church.

After the Litany and prayer rite by Bishop Begley, the Abbot was crowned with a miter and received the Rule of Saint Benedict, a ring, the seal of fidelity, and a golden staff, the symbol of office as shepherd. He then received the sign of

peace from the visiting abbots and the monks of Belmont Abbey.

Following the abbatial blessing, the Abbot was honored at a reception in the Haid.

Abbot Peter was elected abbot on November 24 by the monks of Belmont Abbey. He had been serving as administrator of the monastery since the official resignation of Abbot Jude Cleary, O.S.B. on August 10, 1978. Before Abbot Jude's resignation, he served as prior of the Abbey.

As abbot of Belmont Abbey, Abbot Peter also serves as chancellor of Belmont Abbey College and an ex officio member of its Board of Trustees.

Professed as a Benedictine monk of Belmont Abbey in July 1963, Abbot Peter was ordained to the priesthood in May 1969 after completing his theological training at St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pa.

He also holds a bachelor's degree in math from Illinois Benedictine College, Lisle, Ill., and the M.A. degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He is the son of Gilbert and Bertha Stragand of Durham.

## ACCREDITATION REAFFIRMED

Belmont Abbey College's accreditation as a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has been reaffirmed for the normal period of ten years.

Father Neil W. Tobin, president of the College, received official notification of the accomplishment in a letter from Gordon W. Sweet, executive secretary of the Commission of Colleges. The letter stated: "It is a pleasure to inform you that your institution has satisfactorily completed the Institutional Self-Study Program and that its accreditation was reaffirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in December 1978. We congratulate you on this attainment."

Members of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools must reaffirm their accreditation every ten years.

The process begins with an Institutional Self-Study Program which is conducted by the college and submitted to the Southern Association for review.

Belmont Abbey College began preparation for the self-study in January 1976. Dr. George Herndl, chairman of the English department, directed the program, and Fr. James Solari, O.S.B., then academic dean, chaired the Steering Committee which was responsible for overseeing the self-study.

The study was completed in August 1977, and a Southern Association Visiting Committee visited the college November 13-16, 1977. The nine members of the committee were selected from the faculty and administrators of member colleges, each qualified to examine a different aspect of the college. Miss Jenelle Spear, dean of students of Converse

College in South Carolina, chaired the committee.

The committee's official report to the Southern Association was received on March 9, 1978, and Belmont Abbey College's accreditation was again reaffirmed on December 13, 1978.

The purpose of this Institutional Self-Study Program required by the Southern Association is to help institutions of higher learning improve their educational effectiveness. The procedures of the program are designed to help institutions reassess their objectives, measure success in attaining objectives; explore ways and means by which educational efficiency may be improved, and prepare for the increasing demands by society.

Belmont Abbey College first became accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as a senior college on December 5, 1957.

## ALUMNI WEEKEND March 30, 31 & April 1

This year's Alumni Weekend promises to be very special, and attendance should be the highest ever. Alumni Weekend is scheduled for March 30, 31 and April 1, 1979.

A block of rooms have been set aside for your convenience at the Quality Inn, Airport (formerly the Royal Villa). The Quality Inn is located in Charlotte at the Mulberry Road exit off of I-85. The toll free number for reservations is 1-800-228-5151. Please mention that you are with the Abbey group so that you will get the group discount of \$19 for a single and \$23 for a double room.

All alumni are invited to join in the festivities which begin Friday evening with an informal welcome in the Piedmont Room of the Quality Inn. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Alumni Association will co-sponsor the reception Friday evening. Beer and wine will be provided.

Saturday's program begins with breakfast in the school cafeteria from 10:30-11:30 a.m. A general alumni meeting will be held in the Library

Auditorium at 12 noon. At 1 p.m. campus tours will be available. At 1:30 p.m. the reunion classes of '69 and '74 will face-off in an alumni basketball game at Wheeler Center. At 2 p.m. the Belmont Abbey College tennis team will play Centre College from Danville, Kentucky on the Abbey tennis courts.

The gala evening celebration begins with a cocktail party from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Abbot Vincent Taylor Library. A banquet will follow the cocktail party at 7:30 p.m. in Maurus Dining Hall. The reunion classes of 1949, 1954, 1969 and 1974 will be honored. Special guests will be Dr. Gilbert Farley ('40), former Chairman of the Economics and Business Department, and Mr. J. P. Smith ('35), former

Business Manager and Chairman of the Accounting Department, both of whom will retire at the end of the school year. We hope that all former students of Dr. Farley and Mr. Smith will make a special effort to attend.

An alumni dance will conclude the evening's events. The dance will be held in the Haid College Union from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Mixers and ice will be provided (BYOB).

The total cost of Saturday evening's activities, including the open bar, cocktail party, banquet and dance, will be \$14 per person.

Reservations and a \$10 deposit are to be sent to the Alumni Office no later than March 20, 1979.

See schedule & reply form on page 2

MR JEFF HICKS  
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