

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As private colleges have emphasized their distinctiveness to contrast with public institutions, questions of identity continue to surface. Some private institutions are asking what it means to be Christian, others, what it means to be Catholic, some others, what it means to be both Christian and Catholic. The resolution of the identity question is essential to the future vitality of the Catholic college; this question must be answered in both the philosophical and the practical order. At Belmont Abbey College the Long-range Planning Committee will be charged with the responsibility of re-examining the College's Christian and Catholic identity.

It was encouraging to note that our Holy Father, John Paul II, directed his comments to this subject so early in his pontificate, when he received in audience seven thousand Turstees, professors, students, and friends of Italy's Catholic University of the Sacred Heart on 8 December 1978. The occasion was the first centenary of the birth of the University's Franciscan founder, Father Agostino Gemelli. In his comments, the Pope for the most part articulated the educational philosophy of Father Gemelli. His observations were a stimulus to me and I want to share them with you.

Education in a Catholic college must be centered in the individual person, endowed with certain physical, psychical, and spiritual capacities, conditioned by certain environmental factors, weakened by certain illnesses, straining towards the conquest of certain ideals. The primary aim of education is to assist the person "to think well because thought makes man's greatness. In right thought lies the premise for right action, and in right action lies the hope of a lasting solution for the serious evils that torment mankind." Because of the limitations of human reasoning, faith is



Father Neil W. Tobin

necessary to answer the fundamental problems of human existence.

"We must go back to God, not to just any God presented to us by a natural religion, but to a living God, to Jesus Christ, the supreme reason for our life, the supreme beauty to contemplate, the supreme goodness to imitate, the supreme reward to reach." (A. Gemelli, "La funzione religiosa della cultura," in Vita E Pensiero, April 1919.) In such a vision of education, the Word of God in the Scriptures stimulates and strengthens the human intelligence individually and in the community of scholars, "who are sustained by the joyful awareness of possessing together the ultimate answer to ultimate problems; a community of men and women, above all, who endeavor to incarnate in their existence and in the social environment to which they belong the proclamation of salvation..."

Pope John Paul II concludes by stressing the importance of the Catholic college's commitment to a distinct faithfulness to the Church, to the Pope and the Bishops, as well as to the local ecclesial community. Here there is a vision of education which appreciates humanism, but goes beyond it to satisfy the yearnings of the human person. In our deliberations about the Christian and Catholic identity of Belmont Abbey College, we will be giving serious consideration to these fundamentals. We ask your prayers so that we will be faithful to our Christian and Catholic roots.

Neil W. Tobin

Father Neil W. Tobin
President

Alumni Weekend '79 Schedule of Events

Friday, March 30, 1979

9 p.m. - Informal welcome co-sponsored by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Alumni Association, Piedmont Room (2nd floor), Quality Inn (I-85 at Mulberry Rd.).

Saturday, March 31, 1979

10:30-11:30 a.m. - Breakfast in Maurus Dining Hall (BAC).

12 noon-1 p.m. - General Alumni Meeting in Library Auditorium (spouses are also invited).

1-2 p.m. - The Bookstore, the Alumni Office, and the Development Office and other campus facilities will be open.

1 p.m. - Student hosts will provide campus tours starting at the front of the Administration Building.

1:30 p.m. - Alumni basketball game - class of '69 vs. '74.

2 p.m. - Tennis match-BAC vs Centre College (Ky.).

6 p.m. - Cocktail party-open bar-in the Abbot Vincent Taylor Library.

7:30 p.m. - Alumni Banquet-Maurus Dining Hall-highlighting the classes of 1949, 1954, 1969 and 1974 and honoring Dr. Gilbert Farley ('40) and Mr. J.P. Smith ('35).

9 p.m.-1 a.m. - Alumni Dance-Haid College Union Building (BYOB).

Sunday, April 1, 1979

9 a.m. - Mass-Belmont Abbey Church.

10 a.m. - Breakfast-Maurus Dining Hall.

ALUMNI WEEKEND 1979

Name	Class	Major
Address		
City	State	Zip
Spouse or Guest Name		

I plan to stay at the Quality Inn and I will make reservations before March 23, 1979.

Detach and mail to Belmont Abbey College, Alumni Office, Belmont, NC 28012 no later than March 20, 1979. Include a \$10.00 per person deposit. Please make check payable to Belmont Abbey College.

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

EDWARD F. GALLAGHER

Area Alumnus Honored

Mr. Edward F. "Bud" Gallagher, an alumnus of the class of 1931 and one of the most loyal and generous friends Belmont Abbey College has ever had, was honored by his close business associates, members of his family, and friends on December 20 at a luncheon held at the Gaston Country Club in Gastonia, N.C.

Mr. Gallagher, co-founder of Good Will, Inc. when the firm was established some forty-four years ago, served as its president and chairman of the board for more than thirty years until he stepped down recently. He now serves as a vice president of the Gastonia-based company which publishes and distributes Bibles and inspirational books. The firm has sales people located throughout the United States and in several foreign countries.

The highlight of the luncheon was the formal presentation to Mr. Gallagher of two Bibles published by Good Will and richly hand-bound in leather by the R.R. Donnelley Company, a Chicago firm that has printed many of Good Will's publications over the past quarter century. Mr. Gaylord Donnelley came in person to make the presentation. Unfortunately Mr. Gallagher was ill and unable to attend. In his absence, his wife Iva Lee Gallagher accepted the gifts.

Father John P. Bradley, the provost of Belmont Abbey College and since 1952 a senior editor at Good Will, was master of ceremonies at the luncheon. In introducing Mr. Gaylord

Donnelley, Father Bradley said "It is unfortunate that the guest of honor cannot be here today. However, I can assure you that Bud Gallagher and everyone else at Good Will appreciate deeply Mr. Gaylord Donnelley's coming here personally to honor Bud."

In making the presentation, Mr. Donnelley underlined the tremendous contribution Mr. Gallagher has made to the publishing industry over so many years - the reason why the R.R. Donnelley Company decided to honor him in a special way. R.R. Donnelley, one of the largest printing firms in the United States, has over the years printed literally millions of inspirational books published by Good Will. Referring to this, Mr. Donnelley said that his firm was happy to have been so closely connected

with Bud Gallagher and Good Will for so long.

Mr. Gallagher has been dedicated to Belmont Abbey College for many years. An alumnus, a member of the Board of Advisors from 1956 - 1976, and chairman of that Board from 1970 - 1972, he was awarded an honorary doctorate (L.L.D.) by the College in 1961. When the new Board of Trustees was established in 1976 making it possible for the first time in the College's history for lay men and women to serve as Trustees, Mr. Gallagher, most fittingly, was one of the first laymen elected to the Board.

Belmont Abbey College joins with the R.R. Donnelley Company in congratulating Mr. Gallagher and proudly acknowledges the great debt of gratitude owed to him by this institution.



Mr. Edward F. "Bud" Gallagher