

## Alumni Donors (Cont. from page 8.)

Ethicon Inc.  
William F. Dealy III  
First An. Merchant Co.  
Francis D. Gragani  
General Electric Fdn.  
Martin H. Peters, Jr.  
General Electric Fdn.  
Heriberto Hernandez  
General Foods Inc.  
Christopher Pollard  
Hallmark Cards Inc.  
William Marter  
Hanes Corp.  
Edward C. Eyer, III  
IBM Corporation  
Jim Obi  
IBM Corporation  
Ronald Motley  
IBM Corporation  
Thomas J. Campbell  
J.C. Penney Co. Inc.  
Bart Turner  
James H. Lynch Inc.  
Gerald G. Lynch  
Jefferson Pilot  
Franklin D. Mack  
Johnson & Johnson  
Dennis McEvoy  
Martin Marietta Corp.  
Francis Callan  
Milliken & Company  
Richard L. MaGovern  
Milliken & Company  
Donald J. Krafnick  
National Controls Co.  
Fredrick J. Santolucito  
New York Telephone Co.  
John Healey  
Peat Marwick Mitchell  
Bryan G. Rogers  
Prudential Ins. Co.  
Vincent J. Hirsch  
Security Trust Co.  
James Flatley  
Singer Company  
Michael J. Norris  
Tacoma Enterprises Inc.  
Joseph J. Mertes  
Western Electric  
Thomas D. Siegle

## Alumni Band 'Killdevil'

"This is our final song, really!" shrieked Denny Desloge ('74) as he led "Killdevil" back on stage for its third encore. As the other members of the group situated their equipment, Desloge announced, "We would like to play something by Crosby, Stills and Nash." As the group began to play "Carry On," one could see a deep meaning behind the music.

It had been five years since Desloge graduated from the Abbey, but today he returned with two other Abbey classmates, Bob White and Steve Dettmare, to provide entertainment for the Annual Spring Weekend celebration. Both Desloge and White were members of "Quail" along with three other Abbey men while they were students (1970-74). Now they are members of a seven man group playing mostly in the Washington, D.C. area. Dettmare is also with the group, working in production and writing.

# New Trustees Appointed

Dr. Edwin Wilson, provost of Wake Forest University, and Father Lawrence Willis, O.S.B., assistant professor of history of Belmont Abbey College, have been appointed to the Board of Trustees of B.A.C.

The Board of Trustees of the college consists of seventeen members, four of whom are members of Belmont Abbey Monastery and elected by the monastic community. Board members serve three-year terms.

As provost of Wake Forest University, Dr. Edwin Wilson is the chief academic officer of the University, as well as a professor of English.

A native of Leaksville, North Carolina, he received the B.A. degree summa cum laude in 1943 from Wake Forest, and the A.M. and Ph.D. degrees in English from Harvard University in 1948 and 1952 respectively.

Dr. Wilson joined the Wake Forest faculty in the fall of 1951 as an English instructor. He was promoted through the usual ranks and was named professor of English in 1959. Meanwhile, he had become assistant dean of the college in 1957 and acting dean in 1958. In 1960 he was appointed dean of the college and in 1967 provost of the university. During James Ralph Scales's leave of absence in the fall term of 1974, he was acting president of the university.

Fr. Lawrence Willis, O.S.B., received the B.A. degree from B.A.C. in 1962. He remained at the college for one year as an instructor before going to Pontificium Athenaeum Anselmianum where he received the S.T.B. and S.T.L. degrees. He has been a member of the Belmont Abbey College faculty since that time.

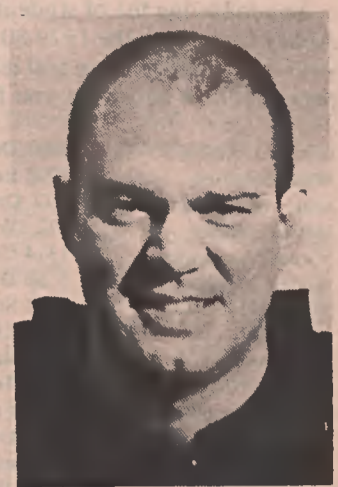
A native of Winston-Salem, Fr. Lawrence made his solemn profession of vows as a monk of the Order of St. Benedict in January 1960. He was ordained as a priest at Assisi, Italy in July 1966.

In addition to the appointments of Dr. Wilson and Fr. Lawrence Willis to the Board of Trustees, four current members were reappointed for additional terms.

James G. Babb, Jr., executive vice president of Jefferson-Pilot Broadcasting Co., Charlotte; Edward J. Dowd, Jr., president of Central Piedmont Employers Association, Charlotte; Edward F.



Dr. Edwin Wilson



Fr. Lawrence Willis, O.S.B.

Gallagher, chairman of the board of Good Will Publishers, Inc., Gastonia, and Father John Oetgen, O.S.B., professor of English at B.A.C., were all reappointed to the Board for additional three-year terms.

Other members of the Board of Trustees include Basil L. Whitener (chairman), Gastonia attorney and former U.S. Congressman; Robert P. Caldwell, president of R.P. Caldwell and Co., Gastonia; J. Bynum Carter, president of A.B. Carter, Inc., Gastonia, Dr. Bonnie E. Cone, vice chancellor emeritus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Ms. Johnnie Geyer, O.S.B., prior of St. Benedict's Priory, Richmond, Va.; Fr. Martin Hayes, O.S.B., assistant professor of accounting at B.A.C.; Louis C. Stephens, Jr., president of Pilot Life Insurance Co., Greensboro; Abbot Peter Stragand, O.S.B., chancellor of the College; Theodore B. Sumner, Jr., chairman of First Union National Bank, Charlotte, and George L. Wrenn, president of Wrenn Brothers Carolina, Inc., Charlotte.

## In Poland, There Is A Lesson For All Christianity Today

by Fr. John P. Bradley

A few months ago a good friend of mine, Dr. Stan Mooneyham, a Baptist clergyman and the president of World Vision, told me of a trip he had made to Poland last May. Discussing the trip with me he asked, "What is that service, John, you Catholics have every evening in May?" After thinking about this for a moment I replied, "Oh yes, you mean the May Devotions honoring Mary the mother of Jesus."

My reply was slow in coming because we Catholics in the Western world have not in recent years paid much attention to such devotional services. "Well," Dr. Mooneyham continued, "I was enormously impressed and edified by the way the people in Poland attended the May Devotions: it seemed that almost everyone in the town where I stayed went to church every evening in May."

Dr. Mooneyham then went on to marvel at the remarkable vitality of Catholicism in Poland despite the efforts of the Polish Communist government to suppress religion since it came into power after World War II.

This point raised by Dr. Mooneyham — the great



Fr. John P. Bradley

vitality of Catholicism in Communist Poland — has attracted much attention recently, no doubt prompted by the election of the first Polish pope, John Paul II. Why has Catholicism in Poland been able to defy the power of the Communist government and keep religion not only alive but strong and central to the people's lives?

There is probably no simple answer to this question. A good part of the answer, however, has to do with the strong and wonderful faith of the Polish people and their deep commitment to Catholicism for a thousand years.

Another part of the

answer, no doubt, is to be found in the close relationship throughout Poland's history between its Catholicism and its national identity. One of the many indications of the strength and durability of this relationship is the annual pilgrimage to venerate the painting of the Black Madonna, Our Lady of Czestochowa, a pilgrimage commemorating the victory of Poland over Swedish invaders. Even today, centuries later, a million Poles participate in this pilgrimage each year.

A further part of the answer, I would imagine, is the magnificent raw courage of the Polish people who for centuries have been continually invaded, taken over, and persecuted by other countries, yet have refused to be obliterated as a nation.

For well over a hundred years Poland was occupied by Prussia, Russia and Austria, yet phoenix-like reappeared as an independent nation after World War I. Devastated by the Nazis in World War II and shamefully handed over to Russia by Roosevelt and Churchill as Yalta as a pawn in the negotiations with Stalin after

the war, Poland nonetheless is vibrant and hopeful once again today. Such a people do not easily yield their Catholicism to invaders, be these invaders armies or ideologies. That is a fact the Soviet-supported invading ideology of communism has discovered in our times.

We Catholics here in the West, to some extent in disarray since the Second Vatican Council, might well wonder about the strength of our commitment to our faith compared with that of Poland. Although we and the other Christian denominations in the West are able to practice our faith in freedom and comfort we seem to exert very little impact on the prevailing culture. With a good deal of merit Western culture is frequently described nowadays as post-Christian, and the "do-your-own-thing, pleasure-principle, me-first" values — anything but Christian — are widely embraced. Perhaps one of the lessons Poland and its history can teach us is that Christianity is purified in the fires of hardship and persecution. Not such a surprising lesson when we recall that the emblem of Christianity is the cross.