

INSIGHT

by Fr. John Bradley

It is often said today that we live in times that are marked by successive crises. There is, I believe, much truth in this, and to my mind the deepest crisis of our times is a crisis of meaning. So many people today seem to lack conviction about their identity as human beings, their ultimate purpose in life. This, of course, engenders a meaninglessness that erodes motivation and causes people to settle for drifting from day to day instead of living their lives with zest, enthusiasm, and the fulfillment that God meant us to have. In like manner, institutions will drift from day to day unless the people involved in them constantly keep before them the identity, the goals and purposes of these institutions. With these thoughts in mind, the Board of Trustees has approved the following statement on the identity, goals and purposes of Belmont Abbey College:

What is Belmont Abbey College? The conventional answer to this question is that it is a four-year coeducational liberal arts college offering the B.A. and B.S. degrees. This answer is, of course, satisfactory as far as it goes. But the more penetrating questioner is really wanting an answer that describes the nature or identity, the philosophy of education, and the goals and purposes of Belmont Abbey College.

The answer to this fundamentally important question must start off with the fact that Belmont Abbey College owes its founding and continued existence to two complementary and illustrious traditions: the Benedictine tradition and the Catholic tradition.

Founded in 1876 by the Order of St. Benedict, Belmont Abbey College is proud of having its roots in the 1400-year-old Benedictine tradition that is justly renowned for its contributions throughout its long history to humane learning. Belmont Abbey College is also proud of having its roots in an even more venerable tradition, the Catholic tradition, a tradition that has fostered education and scholarship throughout the world during the entire period of Christian history, a tradition which gave birth to the first great universities.

Belmont Abbey College is, then, a Benedictine, Catholic college. Its nature or identity derives, as we have said, from the complementary traditions, Benedictine and Catholic, but since Benedictinism is itself rooted in the Catholic tradition, we can obtain a more fundamental understanding of the nature or identity of Belmont Abbey College by focusing on the essential characteristics it derives as an institution of higher education from its Catholic tradition.

A consensus among Catholic college and university educators throughout the world shows that if any college or university is to be true to its Catholic identity, there must be present these four essential characteristics:

1. A Christian inspiration not only of individuals but of the college community as such;
2. A continuing reflection in the light of the Catholic faith upon the growing treasury of human knowledge;
3. Fidelity to the Christian message as it comes to us through the Church; and
4. An institutional commitment to the people of God and of the human family in their pilgrimage to the transcendent goal that gives meaning to life.

A proper understanding of these essential characteristics throws light on the educational philosophy, goals, and purposes of a Catholic college. The Catholic philosophy of education does indeed revere the search for truth, but does not stop short at intellectual excellence. Rather, it is concerned with the total development of the person and the contribution he or she can make to the entire human family. Belmont Abbey College is committed to this philosophy of education and is especially concerned with examining, and where appropriate challenging, the values that are predominant in modern society. This is simply another way of saying that the educational philosophy at Belmont Abbey College places great importance in raising the ultimate human question: What is the meaning of our lives? In pursuing the answer to this ultimate question, Belmont Abbey College as a Catholic college seeks an ever-deepening understanding of how faith and reason give harmonious witness to the unity of all truth.

It goes without saying that everyone engaged in the educational process at Belmont Abbey College must have a clear and sure grasp of these institutional goals and purposes, for the very integrity of a college is

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Attentive students listen to their instructors at last summer's Belmont Abbey Basketball Camp.

Abbey Basketball Camp Slated For June-July

Belmont Abbey basketball coach Bobby Hussey has announced the dates for the 1975 sessions of the Belmont Abbey summer basketball camp.

There will be two sessions for boys, June 15-20 and June 22-27, and one session for girls, July 6-11. The camp is open to persons from eight years of age to rising seniors in high school.

Instructing in the school along with Hussey will be members of the Belmont Abbey basketball team, and several Atlantic Coast Conference Basketball players, as well as top-flight area coaches.

Registration for the sessions begins on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 with the first session starting on Sunday night. Three sessions are scheduled daily, Monday through Friday.

The morning session will be instructional, followed by an afternoon class with lectures and demonstrations along with free throw shooting. The evening classes will consist of organized league play. There will be three breaks each day, during which campers can participate in supervised swimming as well as other organized activities.

The rate for boarding students is \$95 per session. This includes dormitory room, three meals per day, a trip to the movies, an ice cream

supper, and a magic show.

The day student rate is \$55 per session, which includes lunch only. Group rates and family rates are also available upon request.

Each camper is covered by insurance and will receive a Belmont Abbey Basketball camp tee-shirt, a certificate of attendance and some type of award, depending upon how the individual's team comes out in league play.

There will also be competition in free throw shooting and outstanding camper awards. Each week's session culminates in a Camp All-Star game on Friday afternoon.

Only 150 campers will be accepted per session with the deadline for applications being June 1. Information can be obtained by contacting Bobby Hussey at (704) 825-3711.

June 22-27 Is Date For Annual Soccer Camp

Belmont Abbey College will hold its fifth annual soccer camp on the college campus in Belmont, N.C. from June 22-27. Abbey soccer coach Stanley Dudko, an NAIA Coach of the Year for the last eight consecutive years, will be the head instructor for the camp. Others on the staff will be Jack Murphy, head coach

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Phi Beta Kappa

Taps Dr. Min

Dr. Anselm Min, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Belmont Abbey College, has been selected for membership in Phi Beta Kappa, the national honor society.

Although he was eligible for the honor while he was an undergraduate at St. Louis University, Dr. Min was unable to join the society since the institution did not have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

A native of Seoul, Korea, Dr. Min is the author of the book, *Korean Catholicism in the 1970's*. He is married and has two children.

North American

Van Lines Gives

Scholarship

Mr. Frank E. Watson, Jr., President of the Charlotte branch of North American Van Lines, has given a scholarship for a Charlotte area student who enters the program of Distribution Management at Belmont Abbey College for the year of 1975-76. Students who are accepted by the college and meet the approval of the major professor in Distribution Management will be eligible for the scholarship.

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at Carmel Academy in Charlotte and several of Belmont Abbey College's best soccer players.

The camp will be open to boys ages 7 through 18. Fees will be \$100 for boarding campers and \$70 for the day campers. This inclusive fee includes tuition, housing, meals, accident insurance and awards.