

## Abbey loses 'Nullius' status; Cathedral now Abbey Church

Belmont Abbey has lost its long-standing historical status of "nullius."

Belmont Abbey had been a separate diocese in North Carolina since it was founded over one hundred years ago. However, as of January 1, 1977, Belmont Abbey Nullius ceased to exist and has been incorporated in to the Diocese of Charlotte.

In its former status Belmont Abbey was a diocese in itself, administered over by the local ordinary. He had jurisdiction over all the Abbey property. Abbots were able to control their area like a bishop, except the only difference between himself and a bishop was that the Abbot did not have the power to ordain priests.

The status, however, was no longer deemed necessary when Abbot Jude Cleary, O.S.B., was installed. The title Abbey Nullius was more of a traditional, historical name, and in actuality the status had evolved into insignificance.

In the beginning, Abbot Leo Haid, O.S.B., the first Abbot of Belmont Abbey when it was called Mary, Help of Christians Abbey, was both abbot and bishop for the entire state of North Carolina. He was the first and at the time the only bishop in this state.

The Raleigh diocese was formed in 1924 covering the eastern half of the state. Therefore, when Abbot Vincent Taylor succeeded Abbot Haid, he was the ordinary for the Abbey property and several surrounding counties. When Abbot

Walter Coggin became abbot in 1960, his territory was reduced to the grounds of the college. The Diocese of Charlotte was founded in 1972.

Through the years, the status was losing its purpose. When Abbot Edmund McCafferey was elected, there were doubts if the status would be continued. It was, however, and upon the confirmation of Abbot Jude, the Church authorities relinquished the status, and he was approved "abbot normal."

The nullius status was allowed to be continued until the end of the Abbey's centennial year.

The abbot now has no territorial jurisdiction. The Catholic students on campus are now under Bishop Michael Begley and the Diocese of Charlotte.

Abbot Jude remains the personal superior of the monks who are exempt from the direct authority of the bishop. The change will not affect the daily lives of the monks.

One marked change that will be difficult to adjust to is that the Abbey Cathedral is no longer called a cathedral. Now that the seat of the local ordinary has been removed, it should be properly referred to as the Abbey Church. It is not a parish church, but a church attached to a religious community.

All Catholic students on campus are in actuality part of the parish of Queen of Apostles in Belmont, and any marriage rites or baptisms must be processed through the pastor there.



THE ABBEY CHURCH stands here in the cold afternoon. When the Abbey lost its nullius status, the former cathedral also lost its name.

## 'Lion in Winter' will be presented, March 11-15

"The Lion In Winter," a dramatic production written by James Goldman, will be presented March 11-15 at St. Leo's Little Theater at Belmont Abbey College.

Bro. Simon Donoghue, O.S.B. is director of the first of two planned spring productions by the Abbey Players.

The seven-member cast is composed of Chuck Downing, a Junior, as King Henry II of England, Amanda Cleveland as Eleanor of Quitaine, and Tim Dwyer, Beth Bunker, Chris

Whalen, Paul Veltri, and Bro. Robert Hagan, O.S.B.

The story of political intrigue begins on Christmas Eve, 1183, when Henry II and Eleanor meet with their children to decide who the next king of England will be. Henry II and Eleanor each favor a different son, and the play deals with the conflicts that result.

The witty, black comedy will be the third Abbey Players production of 1976-77. Admission for students is \$1.00, others, \$2.00.

## Parents Weekend set for second weekend in March

Belmont Abbey College is formulating plans for a "Parents' Weekend" March 11-13.

The weekend will include festivities intended to familiarize students' parents with campus activities. It will also allow parents an opportunity to visit their son or daughter on campus.

Planners Dean Landrum Cross and a student committee under the direction of Mary Jane Forster, a senior, are hoping for a successful weekend.

Tentatively, registration will begin Friday, March 11 at the Holiday Inn on Little Rock Road, Charlotte, where the college, has reserved a block of rooms for parents. That evening, a cocktail party and dinner are planned to take place at the Holiday Inn.

On Saturday morning, parents, school officials, and faculty will meet to discuss curricula and other matters. At

1 p.m. a buffet luncheon will be served in the Maurus Dining Hall. Saturday afternoon is unstructured to allow parents free time to tour the campus or visit with the students.

All campus facilities such as the pool and tennis courts will be open for use.

On Saturday evening plans call for a school play and a semiformal dance in the Haid. The dance will be open to all students, parents, and invited guests. A band will be provided by the College Union.

On Sunday morning plans include breakfast in the dining hall and Mass in the Abbey Cathedral. Letters of invitation are currently being sent to all parents of Abbey students.

Cost for the weekend will be \$15 for parents and \$12 per student. Tickets will be sold at the Holiday Inn or through the Dean's office. For further information, contact Dean Cross or Mary Jane Forster.

## Self-Study prepares for Southern Assoc. review

Every 10 years all members of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools are reviewed for reaccreditation.

In October, Belmont Abbey College will be visited by a committee that will evaluate this institution before reaffirmation of accreditation.

In preparation for this visit from the Southern Association, all schools must establish an Institutional Self-Study Program. The purpose of the Self-Study is to "improve educational effectiveness in institutions of higher learning." The procedures will help the college "reassess ... objectives, measure success ..., explore ways and means by which educational efficiency may be improved and prepare for the ever-increasing demands by society (Manual for Self-Study, Southern Association, 1974)."

The Self-Study is supervised by a steering committee that is responsible for overseeing the Self-Study, organizing all findings and gathering those facts into a report which will be presented to the Southern Association for review.

Dr. George Herndl, Chairman and Professor, Department of English, is Director of the self-study and Fr. James Solari, O.S.B., is Chairman of the Steering Committee.

There are eight other committees in the Self-Study: Goals and Purposes; Organization and Administration; Educational Program; Financial Resources; Faculty; Library; Student Development; and Physical Plant.

All full-time faculty and administrators are on one of these eight standard committees that look into questions that the Southern Association wants answered.

Three separate questionnaires are being utilized by the committees to obtain some of their information. An alumni questionnaire was sent to a stratified sampling of 400 alumni based on their graduation year, sex and academic major. Returns have been higher and faster than expected.

"This just proves something Dr. Gil Farley told us long ago. If you put stamps on envelopes, you get a much higher percentage of return," Dr. Herndl said, regarding this welcomed response.

Information solicited on these questionnaires is very thorough and specific. The students are asked about everything from their academic advisors, placement services and residence life to extra-curricular activities, the Student Union and what they feel must be improved. The library, admissions procedures, and academic programs are among the topics listed on the faculty and administration questionnaire, along with evaluation of the faculty and administration questionnaire, along with evaluation of the faculty and teaching methods. The alumni are asked about their experiences as an Abbey student, the library facilities and about their careers following graduation. There are a multitude of other areas into which these comprehensive questionnaires delve.

The information gathered in these surveys will be used in part by most of the eight standard committees. Faculty and student returns have begun to come in. Responses are also solicited from a stratified sampling of 25 percent of the student body. So far, of the 180 students asked to complete the questionnaires, almost half have replied.

Once the committees gather and compile the data, a final self-study report will be compiled by the middle of September. With this report as a guide and source, the visiting committee from the Southern Association will spend three days on campus interviewing students, faculty, and administrators; examining records of the academic dean, financial aid and admissions offices, and observing the campus.

"The main purpose of a Self-Study like this," stated Dr. Herndl, "is to inform us about us and to plan and decide about the college. It forces us to ask questions and forces us to think about things that ordinarily we would be too busy to think about. The (the Southern Association) require it for us not them."

Requiring all colleges be reviewed before reaccreditation helps "to see if they are violating the accepted norms of ethics or academics in the

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