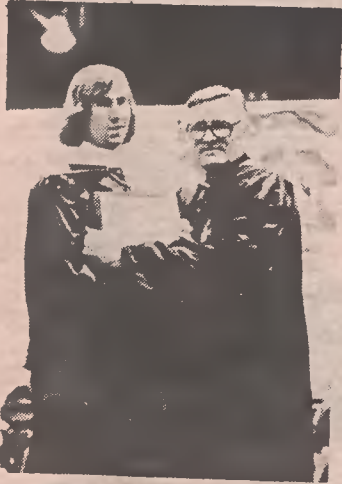


GRADUATION 1978



Raymond P. Corbett Jr., a business administration graduate from Hazlet, N.J., receives the "1978 Abbeyman of the Year Award" from Fr. Bradley.



Graduation speaker Carl J. Stewart Jr. (center) receives honorary LL.D. degree from Fr. Bradley (left) and Fr. James (right).



Fr. Bradley (left) with Dr. Dean W. Colvard, who received the honorary L.H.D. degree.



Fr. Bradley (left) and I.D. Blumenthal listen as citation is read. Blumenthal received the honorary L.H.D. degree during the 100th graduation exercises.

The 100th commencement exercises at Belmont Abbey College were held at 3 p.m. May 14 in the Wheeler Center.

Commencement speaker was Carl J. Stewart, Jr., Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives. In addressing the graduates, Stewart stressed the necessity of building "for ourselves a comprehensive system of State-owned and private, or church-related, institutions," and the need to diminish "the gulf of misunderstanding which too often exists between the academic community and the world of government and business."

He challenged the graduates to "remain, always and forever, free, creative, and humane individuals. When you encounter obstacles, and you will," he continued, "push them aside, not necessarily for your own benefit, but for those who come after you. The world is made up of two kinds of people - takers and givers. The takers eat better, but the givers sleep better."

A native of Gastonia, Stewart graduated from Ashley High School there. He won the four-year Firestone Scholarship to any college or university in the United States. In 1958 the Phi Beta Kappa scholar received the A.B. degree from Duke University. He also won a full scholarship to the Duke University Law School from which he received the J.D. degree.

Stewart was elected to the North Carolina General Assembly in 1966 and has served five successive terms. He served as chairman of several key legislative committees before becoming speaker of the House of Representatives in 1977.

As a senior partner of Stewart and Lowe, Attorneys at Law, of Gastonia, Stewart is a member of the American Trial Lawyers Association, N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers, American Bar Association, N.C. Bar, N.C. Bar Association, and the Gaston County Bar Association.

Stewart is also active in many civic organizations. He is general campaign chairman and president of Gaston County United Appeal, past director of Gastonia Jaycees, member of the Board of Directors of Gaston Children's Center, Gaston Skills, and the Gastonia Chapter of the American Cancer Society, a member of the Board of Control for Southern Regional Education, and a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, Gastonia Optimist Club, and the Carolina United Community Appeal. He is a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the official Church Board of Bradley Memorial Methodist Church in Gastonia where he has taught Sunday School since the age of 16. He was named Gastonia's Outstanding Young Man in 1965.

In addition to Stewart, honorary degrees were conferred upon Dr. Dean W. Colvard, chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and I. D. Blumenthal, philanthropist and humanitarian from Charlotte. Both men were awarded the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Colvard has been chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte since 1966. Active in numerous educational organizations, he bears the B.S. degree from Berea College, the M.A. from the University of Missouri, and a Ph.D. degree and an honorary doctorate from Purdue University.

He is also active in international affairs related to education, various civic and religious organizations, and is the author of *Administration of Teaching, Research and Extension at Land-Grant Institutions* and numerous articles, bulletins, and addresses.

I.D. Blumenthal, president of Radiator Specialty Co., Charlotte, and Radiator Specialty Co. of Canada, Ltd., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, has always concerned himself with the development of mankind. He serves on the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and is one of the founders of the North Carolina organizations. He is also on the Board of Directors of the United Community Foundation, Inc., and a member of the Charlotte Civitan Club, B'nai Brith, the N.C. Council on Human Relations, and Temple Beth El in Charlotte. Blumenthal is a 32 degree Mason and a loyal patron of the arts. He is the honorary life president of Temple Israel in Charlotte, chairman of the Board of the N.C. Association of Jewish Men, life director of the Charlotte Federation of Jewish Charities, and president of the N.C. Jewish Home for Aged, Inc., Clemmons, N.C.

He has dedicated Wildacres, his estate in the Blue Ridge Mountains to the betterment of human relations. In addition, Blumenthal has established several endowments and awards in the name of religion, charity, and religious education, and is a sympathetic supporter of all worthy causes in the community.

Baccalaureate speaker at the 11:30 a.m. mass in the Abbey Church was the Most Reverend Michael J. Begley, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Bishop Begley, ordained to the priesthood in 1934, was appointed the first bishop of Charlotte in 1971. Prior to that time, he had served as pastor of various parishes in North Carolina.

He received the A.B. degree in 1930 from Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md. and the M.S.S.W. degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1948. In 1974 two honorary degrees were conferred on him by Belmont Abbey College and Mount St. Mary's College.

Belmont Abbey College, in its 102nd year, graduated a class of 119.

