

THREE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

An Elective Curriculum

On February 28, 1968, the faculty at Lancaster Seminary unanimously passed the following motion:

Moved that the curriculum be freed of required courses except the September course on Church and Culture for Juniors, the September Program of Training for Self-directed Behavioral Change for Mid-Idlers, the Seminar Abroad, Comprehensive Examinations, and ninety hours of courses, including the Senior Colloquy.

Freeing the regular six semesters of all required courses except a team-taught Senior Colloquy was prompted by several considerations: (1) Students should begin to assume more responsibility for their education immediately upon entering graduate school; (2) The motivations and vocational goals of students vary widely, and a free curriculum permits each student to prepare himself more adequately for the particular ministry he ultimately expects to assume; and (3) Students come to seminary from varied backgrounds and with different preparation, and an "open" curriculum will better meet the needs and abilities of all students.

This change from prescribed courses makes it clear that the primary function of Lancaster's faculty and curriculum is to help students become responsible, life-long learners. Other elements of this new approach to the curriculum include a close relationship between students and their faculty advisors, four field comprehensive examinations which may be taken whenever the student feels that he is properly prepared, and new elective courses which will be available to students at their own choosing.

The changes involved in the February action of the faculty go into effect in September, 1968. A complete schedule of courses on a three-year cycle is being assembled and will be announced later this year. With these aids a student can plan his entire course of study three years in advance. Such a plan, however, will not in any way restrict a student. He will be free each semester to change his mind—and his schedule. Neither



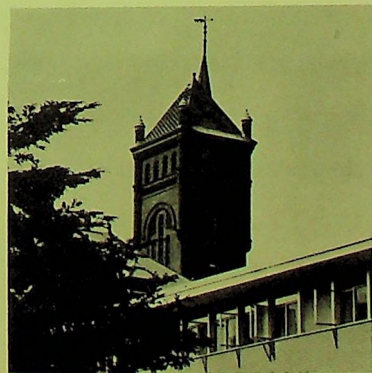
will such a three-year cycle preclude the possibility of other new courses being added and offered each year. These will be developed as faculty members choose and as the needs arise.

Since it will take several months to work out all the implications of the new curricular plans, the 1968-69 catalog will be delayed until these details can be announced. For this reason we are circulating this brief statement now.

It should also be noted that the cooperative program with Crozer Seminary, an American Baptist institution in Chester, is being extended. The lifting of required courses at Lancaster makes it possible for students to select more courses offered by Crozer, should they desire to do so.

Scholarships For Academic Excellence

Dr. Robert V. Moss, Jr., president of the Seminary, announced on March 20 the establishment of the Darbaker Honor Scholarship Program. Each year several full-tuition grants will be made to students of high academic standing to encourage sound theological scholarship. These grants are renewable each year. Announcements of the scholarships for the fall of 1968 will be made by May 10.



An Ecumenical Appointment

Father William J. Walsh, a Roman Catholic scholar, was elected in February as assistant professor of church history. His appointment for the 1968-69 year as a full member of the faculty begins on July 1.

A Jesuit, Father Walsh received his Ph.L., M.A. and S.T.L. degrees from Woodstock and his Doctor of Sacred Theology degree from Catholic University, Washington. From 1956 to 1961 he was Secretary to the Jesuit Provincial Superior in Baltimore, and served as Director and Headmaster of the Bishop's Latin School in Pittsburgh from 1961-65. In 1966-67 he was assistant professor of theology at Georgetown University. Currently he is assistant professor of theology at the Jesuit Novitiate in Wernersville, Pa.



In accepting the appointment Father Walsh said, "The Roman Catholic theologians whom I admire and respect are those whose thought came blowing into the official halls of the Church with gale force when Pope John threw open the windows. I have long been impressed by the fact that these scholars had for years been in close and cordial contact with fel-

low theologians of other traditions. It is no accident, I suspect, that the best in recent Catholic thought has emerged from the stimulus provided by ecumenical conversation. Surely one of the more decisive influences at Vatican II was the presence of distinguished observers from other faiths."

"I view my appointment to the faculty of Lancaster Theological Seminary," he continued, "as one practical effort to prolong and develop the productive ecumenical spirit that graced the Council and remains one of its most treasured memories. I therefore welcome the opportunity to review the early Christian centuries with Lancaster students and explore with them the rich theological thought which our Christian forebears elaborated and bequeathed to us as a common Christian inheritance."

The Seminary and its faculty members have long had cordial relations with the Roman Catholic Church. Dr. Philip Schaff, professor of church history at the Seminary from 1844 to 1865 was one of the first prominent Protestant theologians since the Reformation to build, through his writings and addresses, bridges of trust and understanding between these two great branches of Christendom.

Three Lancaster Seminary faculty members were observers at Vatican II, and in September, 1966, Pope Paul VI received in a private audience thirty-five Lancaster students who were spending a month of study abroad. Gilbert Bartholomew, a Lancaster Seminary senior, spent August, 1967, in study with Roman Catholic seminarians of the North American College in Rome at its villa adjoining the Pope's summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, and the dean of the faculty, Dr. Gable, had an interview with Pope Paul in 1966.

For a number of years faculty members at Lancaster have lectured on occasion at several nearby Roman Catholic seminaries. Dr. Moss, president of Lancaster Seminary, is currently serving as co-chairman of the Catholic-Reformed Dialogue Group, a high-level inter-faith committee which is meeting to discuss mixed marriages, the ministry, development of doctrine, and joint worship on special occasions for Roman Catholics and Protestants. The Seminary was host to this Committee at its latest meeting in Lancaster on October 26-28, 1967.

Lancaster Theological Seminary

LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA 17603

