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Alcuin Library's 1966 Dedication, The Vice President, and Dorothy Day

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A few preliminary slides first,
in honor of Alcuin Library's 2015-2018 renovation



some
images
from a
2015
History
Lesson...



The Libraries at St. John's

History lesson from 2015,
<https://apps.csbsju.edu/sjuvignettes/AlcuinLibraryHistory.pdf>

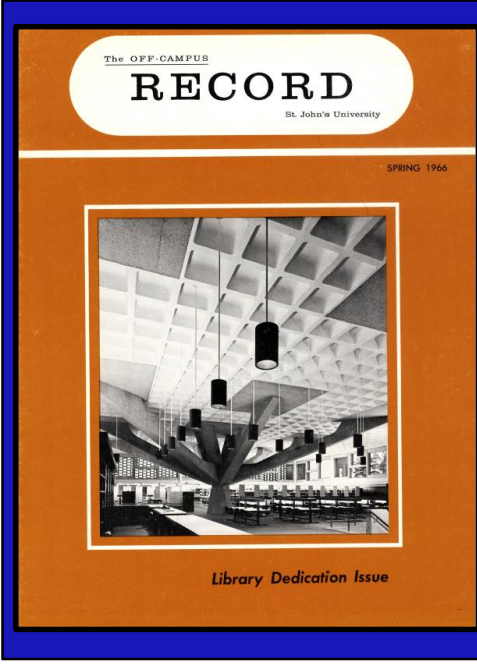
...and a
look at
what
Alcuin
Library
looks like
now





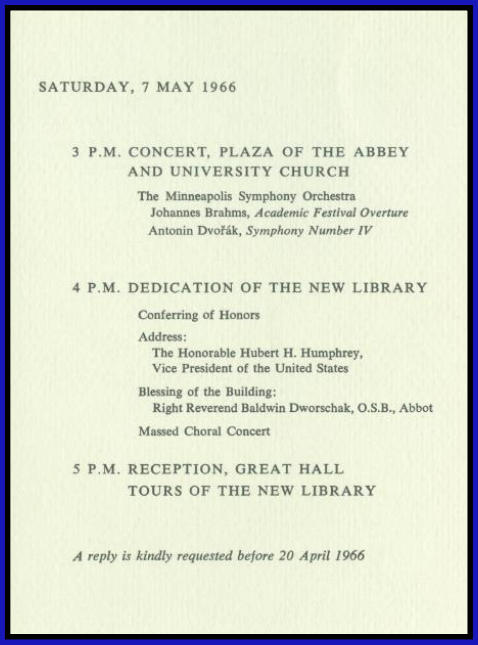
John Helgeland (Theology) and Ginny Clendenin





**Alcuin
Library's
1966
Dedication**

*There's a story
here...*



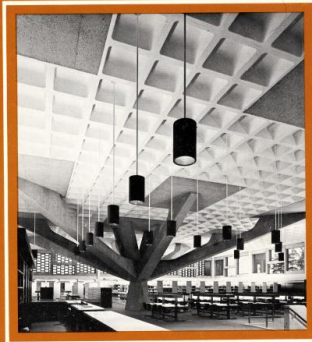
1966-03 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 06 Number 01 Spring cover and p.3
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/1321/rec/19>
 On right: Dedication Booklet from ARC file

The OFF-CAMPUS

RECORD

St. John's University

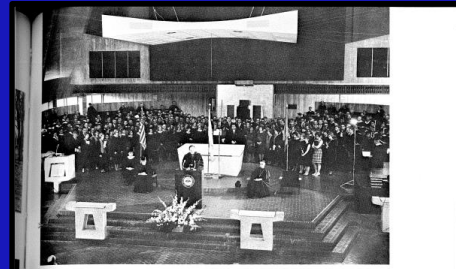
SPRING 1966



Library Dedication Issue

Alcuin Library's 1966 Dedication

*It was a very
big deal.*



Our Second Library is Dedicated

At exactly 2:42 p.m. on Saturday, the Seventh of May, the second of two large helicopters landed on the St. John's University softball field. After the rotor blades had stopped, the door opened and out into the sunshine stepped the Vice President of the United States with a big friendly smile and a hand outstretched to receive the greeting of University president Father Columba Barry.

Mr. Humphrey and his charming wife Maude had come to help share in the dedication of Saint John's long-awaited new library. Minnesota's Governor Karl Rolings had also made the journey with the Vice President's party from the Humphreys' home in Waverly, some 45 miles away.

At the ever-present Secret Service agents watched the crowd gathered around Mrs. Clyde Peterson, the wife of the University's Plant Manager and sometime member of the Humphreys, presented the Vice President with a large bouquet of red roses.

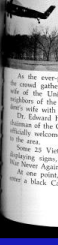
St. Edward Heery, mayor of nearby St. Cloud and chairman of the Government Department at Saint John's, officially welcomed Vice President and Mrs. Humphrey to the area.

Over 25 Viet Nam picketers stood quietly nearby, holding signs, some which read, "War No More - Send Them Home Again," and "Bring the Troops Home Now." At one point, just as Mr. Humphrey was about to enter a black Cadillac limousine (loaned for the occasion by Mr. Clyde Peterson), he gestured in the direction of the picketers and said, "These are my friends...I must talk with them." Before he had taken a few steps in their direction, however, an aid reminded him of the afternoon's tight schedule, and so he got into the awaiting car with Governor Rolings and Father Colman.

Mrs. Humphrey followed in a second limousine with Mrs. Peterson with a car full of Secret Service agents bringing up the rear.

The official party motored past St. Mary's Hall where the academic procession had begun to form, and on to the west side of the Church where they got out and proceeded to a brief meeting in Abbot Ralston Doverschick's office in the monastery. With the Abbot were Bishops Leo Doverschick, Fargo, N.D., Peter Bartholome, St. Cloud, Leonard Haggarty, the Dakota Islands, and Assistant to the President of the University, Donald Conway.

After the meeting, Mr. Conway escorted Mrs. Humphrey, who wore a bright yellow, two piece spring suit with a matching hat and gloves, into the Church and up the center aisle to her seat. The Vice President, accompanied by Father Abbot and the visiting bishops, joined the academic procession.



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<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/1321/rec/19>

The festivities were spread out over several days

DEDICATION

Saint John's University Library
Collegeville, Minnesota

1966 May

| FRIDAY, 6 MAY 1966 | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>Campus Conversation Day</i> | <p>11:00 A.M. Conversations of the Honored Guests with the Faculty and Student Community</p> |
| FRIDAY, 6 MAY 1966 | |
| <i>Campus Conversation Day</i> | <p>12:30 P.M. Luncheon, Students and Honored Guests, Dining Rooms</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Reception and Dinner, Faculty and Honored Guests, Great Hall</p> |
| SATURDAY, 7 MAY 1966 | |
| <i>Dedication Day</i> | <p>12:30 P.M. Reception and Luncheon, Associate Board of Trustees and Honored Guests, Alumni Lounge</p> <p>3:30 P.M. Concert of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, Plaza of the Abbey and University Church</p> <p><i>Academic Festival Overture, Opus 80, Johannes Brahms</i></p> <p><i>In with a musical "introduction" for an honorary degree conferred in a very usual academic setting commensurate that honored, but for how ever conducted a work so fitting as did Brahms. Awarded an honorary Ph.D. by the University of Toronto in 1975, Brahms composed the Academic Festival Overture during the summer of 1880 in G major, in Upper Austria.</i></p> <p><i>Four distinct songs, each by Brahms among three years earlier during a visit with the violator location at Göttingen, are the music selected for the work. The first song, "We Shall Build a Stately House," is most meaningful at the opening by the first violins. It is followed by "The Father of the Country," again in a fairly serious tone, played by the second violins. A third and merry "Yak, Yack," concludes with the beating of feetmen, with Brahms' third choice of student songs for the Overture. The concluding "Cathedral Hymn" is among the best known student songs in the entire world. Brahms' humor and inventiveness in which he frequently held his own music is highlighted in his description of the Academic Festival Overture as "a re-creation of student songs in G major." Yet one may imagine that the presence of the work before the academic officials of Toronto on January 4, 1966, with Brahms conducting, may have given some uncomfortable moments to the more pompous in the audience.</i></p> <p><i>Symphony No. 4 in G major, Opus 88, Antonin Dvořák</i></p> <p><i>Born into an obscure farming village of Bohemia, yet rises to heights of world and musical fame. Dvořák.</i></p> |

Dedication Day

4:00 P.M.

Dedication of the Second Library

Academic Convocation

Festal Pealing of the Banner Bells
Sacred Heart, Guardian Angel,
Mary, John the Baptist, and
Benedict

Academic Procession
Marshals and Honor Guard
Student Council
Senior Honor Students
Faculty of the University
Associate Board of Trustees
Honorary Degree Recipients

Concert of Massed Choruses

Chorus of College of Saint Benedict,
Sister Nathan Super, O.S.B., director

Newman Hall Choir, Saint Cloud State College,
Father David Marthaler, director

Saint Cloud Cathedral Choir,
Charles Sullivan, director

Saint Cloud State College Choirs,
Harvey Waugh, director

Saint John's Seminary Choir,
Father David Marthaler, director

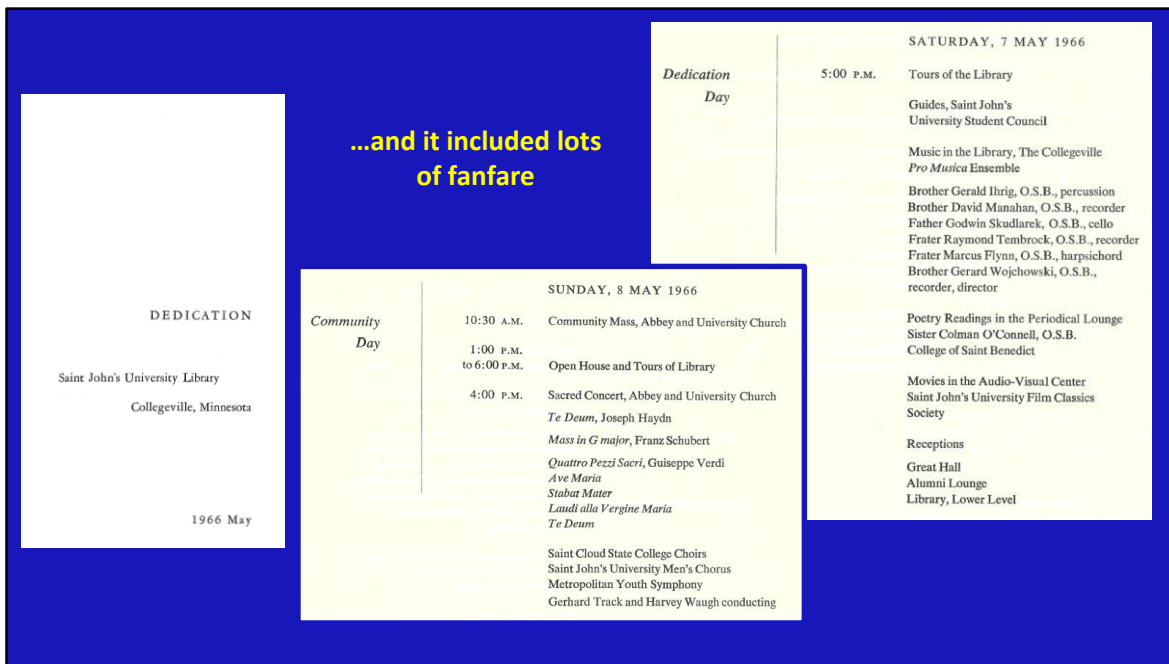
Saint John's Abbey Choir,
Father Gerard Farrell, O.S.B., director

Saint John's University Men's Chorus,
Gerhard Track, director

Dedication booklet from Alcuin Library Building – Dedication (1966) folder, SJU Archives, Cabinet 2



Dedication booklet from Alcuin Library Building – Dedication (1966) folder, SJU Archives, Cabinet 2



Dedication booklet from Alcuin Library Building – Dedication (1966) folder, SJU Archives, Cabinet 2

Thirteen Distinguished Persons Receive Honorary Doctorates at Library Dedication

Eleven men and two women received honorary degrees at Library Dedication Ceremonies in the Abbey and University Church last May 7.

The degrees were conferred upon the thirteen by Right Reverend Baldwin Dvorochuk, O.S.B., abbot of Saint John's and chancellor of the University. Father Donald Taylor, O.S.B., Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Father Paul Hentz, Dean of the School of Divinity, placed the doctoral hoods on the candidates.

The degree recipients, in the order that each was honored, are listed below with a brief biography on each.



Hubert H. Humphrey
the distinguished Vice-President of the United States

The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, Vice President of the United States, assumed office on 20 January 1965. As a member of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, he was elected to serve Minnesota as a U.S. Senator for three consecutive terms before resigning in December, 1964, to assume the duties of the Vice Presidency. During his third term in Congress, he served as the Senate Minority Whip. He was elected mayor of Minneapolis twice. An authority on political science, he has been honored by a number of American colleges and universities.

Dr. Edgar M. Carlson became president of Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota, in 1944, relinquishing both a position in the Department of Christianity and membership in the faculty at Augustana Theological Seminary. Reputed in this country as an outstanding Lutheran scholar, he is the author of *The Theologization of Luther*. He is one of two Americans serving on the Theological Commission of the Lutheran World Federation. He has been knighted as Commander of the Royal Order of the North Star by the King of Sweden.

St. Elmore Dupuch, Nassau, Bahamas, has been editor and publisher of the Nassau Tribune newspaper, Bahamas Islands, since 1918. Distinguished throughout his career for extraordinary British military and public service, he was created a Knight Bachelor by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Pope Pius XII honored him by creating him a Knight Commander of the Ancient Order of St. George the Great. In recognition of his success in breaking down racial barriers in the Bahamas Islands without bloodshed, he was presented the Marginalary Award by the Inter American Press Association. He received a bachelor of science degree from Saint John's University.

A. A. Hochman, St. Paul, Minnesota, is the executive director of the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation. Active throughout his career in charitable social work and education, community health and welfare as well as foundation work, he has contributed his versatile talents to community and education activities in several American cities. Presently a consultant for the Lovington Foundation, he has served among others on the board of directors of the Minnesota Medical Foundation and the Hamilton Foundation. He is also on the board of the National Council of Philanthropy.

Arthur A. Houghins, Jr., New York City, is the president of Strohens Glass and director of the Corning Glass Works. He serves as director of the United States Steel Corporation and the New York Life Insurance Company. He is the president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (N.Y.) and vice president of the Corning Museum of Glass. He is an honorary trustee of the Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston), and is past chairman of the Philharmonic Symphony Society of New York. He was once the Curator of Rare Books at the Library of Congress. He has been honored by ten colleges and universities and by a number of foreign societies.

Father Oliver L. Kasper, O.S.B., a monk of Saint John's Abbey, is presently the Director of the Saint John's Monastic Manuscript Microfilming Project. He has served in the past as librarian, cataloger and professor at Colgateville. Later in his life, after service as an army chaplain, he was appointed the Research Cataloger consecutively at the libraries of the Catholic University of America and Saint Vincent College.

Dr. James Kitznick, Princeton, New Jersey, is the director of the Institute for Advanced Religious Studies at the University of Notre Dame, and is a member of the School of Historical Studies at Princeton. By appointment,



Alfred A. Hedeman
 civic and educational pioneer, dedicated servant of society



Arthur A. Houghins, Jr.
 a distinguished bibliophile and patron of the arts



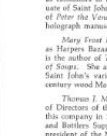
Father Oliver L. Kasper, O.S.B.
 scholar, monk and creative librarian



Dr. James Kitznick
 preeminent scholar, diplomat and abbot



Thomas J. Moore, Sr.
 Christian journalist and abolitionist



Mary Trant Mahon
 worked thirty years as an editor for such magazines as Harper's Bazaar, McCall's, Town and Country and Sports Illustrated. She is the author of *The ABC of America's Women* and *A Maid in Iron* (A Book of Songs). She and her husband James Brown Mahon have generously given Saint John's various art treasures the most exquisite of which is a twelfth century wood Madonna, the Virgin statue in the Abbey and University Church.

Theresa J. Moore, Sr., Minneapolis, Minnesota, is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Minnesota. She founded this company in 1919 and has directed it ever since. She founded the Brewers and Bottlers Supply Company of Winnipeg, Canada in 1912. He is a past president of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. He was the chairman of the Minnesota-St. Lawrence-Southern Commission in 1947. During the mid-fifties, he was chairman of the Minneapolis Mayo Memorial Committee.

Alfred G. Mauldin, St. Paul, Minnesota, is the president of the North Central Publishing Company, Saint Paul. Starting out as a printer in 1926, he worked his way to the top serving as plant superintendent, then vice president



Alfred G. Mauldin
 printer, publisher and graphic arts publisher



Morgan Musky
 pioneer leader in communications and service



Mother Hertha Quasthoff, O.S.B.
 prioress, librarian and coauthor of *God*



Eugene B. Power
 community leader, professor of the ineluctable essence of civilization

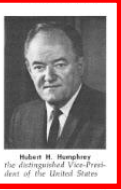
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Edgar M. Carlson
claustrician, philosopher and educator



Etienne Dupuch
publisher, statesman and civic leader

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Dr. Edgar M. Carlson became president of Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota, in 1944, relinquishing both a position in the Department of Christianity and membership in the faculty at Augustana Theological Seminary. Reappointed in this country, he is the author of *The Scattered Americans* serving on the Theological Federation. He has been knighted at the North Star by the King of Sweden.

Sir Etienne Dupuch, *Nassau*, Editor of the *Nassau Tribune* newspaper, *Nassau*, throughout his career for extraordinary he was created a Knight Bachelor by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the Queen's Birthday Honors List of 1964. He has presented the Marguerite Award by the National U.S. Board of Science Degrees.

A. A. Hochman, St. Paul, Minnesota, *Love Me and Mend Hill Family* Foundation in charitable social work and education and in education activities in *Strom* *Asses* for the Livingston Foundation, he has received the Minnesota Medical Fellowship. He is also on the board of the National U.S. Board of Science Degrees.

Arthur A. Houghton, Jr., New York City, *Glass* and director of the Corning Glass Company. He is the president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (S.V.) and vice president of the Corning Museum of Glass. He is an honorary trustee of the Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston), and is past chairman of the Philharmonic Symphony Society of New York. He was the Curator of Rare Books at the Library of Congress. He has been honored by ten colleges and universities and by a number of foreign societies.

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Alfred A. Hochman
civic and educational pioneer, dedicated servant of society



Arthur A. Houghton, Jr.
a distinguished bibliophile and patron of the arts



Father Oliver L. Kuzner
O.S.B. scholar, monk and creative librarian



Dr. James Kitzack
preeminent scholar, diplomat and advisor



Thomas Moore
printer, publisher and graphic arts paragon



Mother Henrita Osendorf
pioneer leader in communications and service



Mary Frost Mabon
poet, librarian and creator of the invaluable sources of civilization



Gustavus president
of the invaluable sources of civilization

- Edgar Carlson, Gustavus president and Lutheran scholar
- Etienne Dupuch, Nassau newspaper publisher
- Mary Frost Mabon, editor of *Harpers*, *McCalls*, *Sports Illustrated*, etc. and Mabon Madonna donor
- Thomas Moore, Coca-Cola chairman of the Board
- Mother Henrita Osendorf OSB

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Eleven men and two women received honorary doctorates at the University Church last May 7.

The degrees were conferred upon the thirteen by Big John's and Chancellor of the University, Father Donagan, and Father Paschal Bieri, Dean of the School of Divinity, and the following are the names of the recipients in the order that each was honored:



Hubert H. Humphrey
the distinguished Vice-President of the United States



Edgar M. Carlson
theologian, philosopher and educator



St. Dennis Donoh
publicist, statesman and vice leader

The Honored States, annual of Fair-Labor Peace for three consecutive years of the period in the Senate. An author of American color.

Dr. Edgar M. St. Peter, Minister of Christianity as Secretary. Through he is the author Americans serving Federation. He is the North Star by

St. Dennis Donoh of the Nation This throughout his life he has created a Plan XII honored Chair of St. George down social have presented the May. He received a hat.

A. A. Harkin Lane II, and his in charitable social well as foundation and education, an for the Livingston directors of the M. He is also on the M.

Arthur A. St. Glass and director the United States party. He is the vice president of I of the Institute of Philharmonic Sym of Lane Book at colleges and centers.

Father Oliver presents the Don Project. He has in Collegeville. Last pictured the Roman University of Am

St. Dennis Donoh publicist, statesman and vice leader.



Hubert H. Humphrey
the distinguished Vice-President of the United States



Arthur A. Houghton, Jr.
a distinguished bibliophile and patron of the arts



Father Oliver L. Kasperer, O.S.B.
scholar, monk and creative librarian



Dr. James Kitzback
pious scholar, diplomat and advisor

... president and Lutheran scholar
... newspaper publisher
... editor of *Harpers, McCall's, Sports*
... Madon Madonna donor
... Cola chairman of the Board
... orf



pioneer leader in communications and service



priestess, liberator and savior of God



of the inimitable source of civilization

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1966 Spring Off-Campus Record, p.4

Cover <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/1321/rec/19>



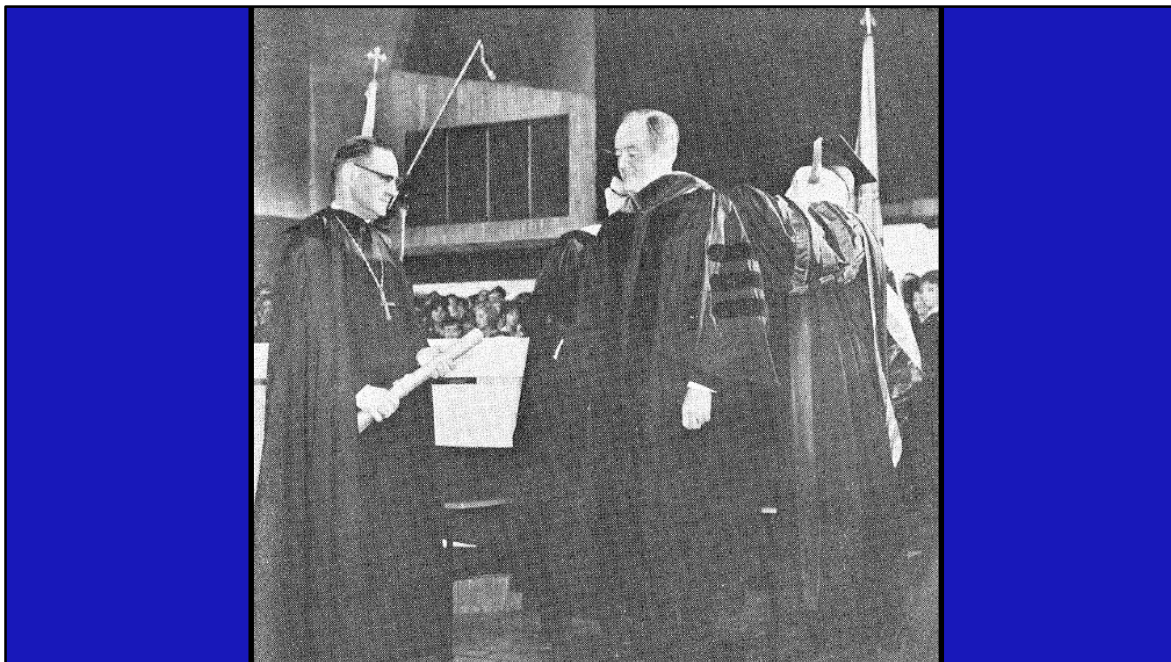
1966 Spring Off-Campus Record, p.5

Cover <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/1321/rec/19>

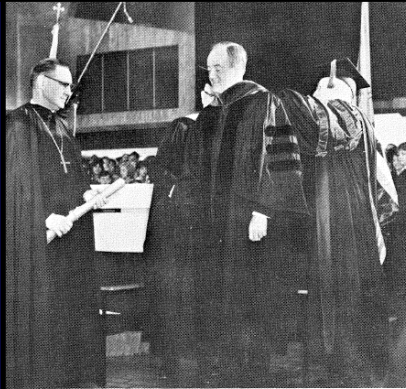


1966 Spring Off-Campus Record, p.5

Cover <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/1321/rec/19>



1966-03 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 06 Number 01 Spring p.6
Cover: <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/1321/rec/19>



In Library Dedication Address:

Vice President Humphrey Defines the Role of the Liberal Arts College

Abbot Baldwin, Father Colman, Bishop Bartholome and Bishop Dworschak, Bishop Hagarty, Governor Rolvaag and Congressman Olson, distinguished guests and those here today who have received their honors—I am so proud to be a member of this very select group—faculty and students.

I am sure you must know how I feel at this moment. This is my first visit to this magnificent, beautiful edifice, this great spiritual foun-

libraries—a library designed by an architect, Marcel Breuer, justly famed for buildings characterized by boldness of design, and universality of form—this library like this great church is worthy of the Benedictine tradition—a tradition which considered a library indispensable long before colleges and universities appeared on monastic grounds. From the early medieval period to the present day, a library has been essential to the Benedictine role of preserving and transmitting the Christian culture and Christian civilization to generation after generation.

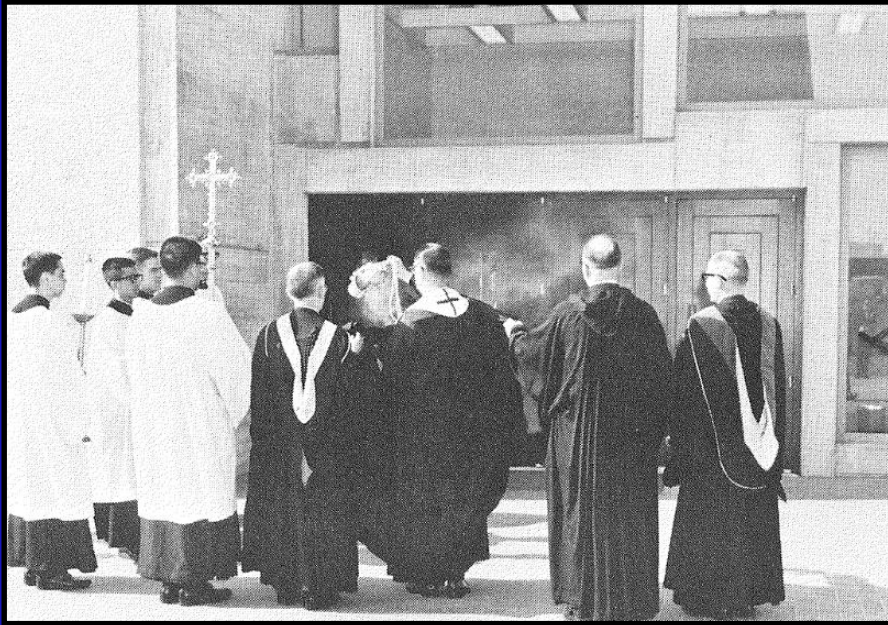
Although Benedictine Abbeys have always responded to the needs of the region—as indeed has Saint John's—the same Benedictine Abbeys have sought to serve more uni-

American Benedictines have also addressed themselves to the immediate issues confronting modern man. Today Saint John's is widely recognized for its leadership in the ecumenical movement—its patronage of the best of modern art and architecture—its bringing together the worlds of religion and modern psychiatry—its early and sustained support of racial justice—and its stimulation among its graduates of a profound interest in ethics and public life.

Now to those of us in public life, it is not surprising that one of the men who has contributed most to the probing of the relationship between ethics and politics, and to defining a public philosophy for a nuclear era, is a graduate of this college and an honor graduate too—my distinguished friend and col-

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1966-03 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 06 Number 01 Spring p.7
Cover: <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/1321/rec/19>

over the decisions and actions of government — and they should.

Now to maintain a balance between the university independence and the need for social stability requires a self-disciplined and well educated citizenry. The general education offered, then, by the liberal arts school — the college or university — is the best guarantee that this balance will be maintained.

Now as one who has been a student and a teacher, a citizen and a public servant in the State of Minnesota and in our Nation — I have been impressed by the way in which the pattern of higher education in our State and through the nation both serves the need of modern society, becoming a part of the community — and yet accurately reflects the very traditions of a pluralistic society. Public institutions and private — religious institutions and secular — have cooperated to provide students and scholars in this area of America unparalleled educational opportunities. We're rich — rich in the opportunity of learning — unbelievably wealthy in the privilege of education. The partnership between the federal government and the states, between government and private institutions, both encourages general and specialized education while preserving a pluralistic educational pattern — reflecting the cultural diversity of our society — and remember that one of our goals is to make this world safe for diversity.



hopes have been fulfilled — not only in the library which we dedicate — but in the entire new Abbey and College being built according to the inspiration of Marcel Breuer. Through this library then generations of monks and laymen — of students and scholars — will preserve and extend the tradition of Benedictine scholarship that has flourished here — right here — for over one hundred years.

Humphrey ceremoniously planted a tree in front of the new library

(it later died)

1966-03 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 06 Number 01 Spring p.8

Cover: <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/1321/rec/19>



Something Humphrey missed by flying in:

1966 Spring Off-Campus Record, p.4

Cover <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/1321/rec/19>



Ascherman (Sesquicentennial) Photo Collection, SJU Archives, LP251.1960s.Protestors



(on right) StCloudTimesPhoto1966May9

(on left) 1966 Spring Off-Campus Record, p.4

Cover <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/1321/rec/19>

**Also offered an honorary
degree, to be given at the
library dedication:**

Dorothy Day
Co-founder of the Catholic
Worker movement



2003 Volume 03 Issue 01 Abbey Banner Spring p.19

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/23905/rec/6>

Dorothy Day Outlines 'Worker' Aims

By Jim Coyne

●Dorothy Day, managing editor and publisher of the Catholic Worker, addressed approximately 200 persons Tuesday in the Alumni lounge.

Miss Day was introduced by Julian Doran, president of the YDFL Club, which sponsored the event.

Forced to confine her appearance to one hour because of a tight schedule, the tall, gray-haired Catholic crusader outlined the social, political, and religious position of the Catholic Worker. It is "a very extreme position," avowed Miss Day, and has attracted much controversy throughout its organized existence. "It is very difficult to live these ideas," Miss Day said.

The Worker position is supported

ed by many of the Catholic hierarchy, Miss Day said. The archbishop of New York has given the movement "absolute liberty" to express its ideas.

A basic idea of Miss Day's talk was "non-violent resistance to evil." Speaking on pacifism and conscientious objection, she said:

"I speak on pacifism somewhat reluctantly, for it is a very difficult problem. I wish Armon Hennacy were here now, because he has had more experience with this matter than I have had." Hennacy, an anarchist, is an associate editor of the Worker.

Catholics can be conscientious objectors, Miss Day said. Catholic theologians have never struck a definite position on the matter. Miss Day stated that war is "a reversal of the works of mercy,"

and remarked on "the crime of conscription."

The government does not like to classify Catholics as conscientious objectors for fear of starting a bloc objection to war by Catholics universally, said Miss Day.

Miss Day also cited the principle of non-violent resistance in speaking on labor strikes, the cold war, and the atomic weapons race.

In speaking on Christian living, Miss Day issued a plea that the Catholic laity return to a life modeled on the New Testament.

"The work of the laity is in the world," she said. "We are all involved in the problems of today, and we are obliged to help work them out. We should study the lives of men who are most striving to achieve Chris-

tian ideals, just as we read the lives of the saints.

"Too many Catholics do nothing. The life of the New Testament is nowhere being lived. Catholics should do something about the family. They should explore the idea of Christian communes.

"Catholics should try to be poorer instead of richer. They should explore the possibilities of voluntary poverty, and the possibilities of building a better social order."

Miss Day urged that Catholics follow the example set by the Benedictine monks. "You have an excellent example of Christian living here at St. John's," she said.

This summer Miss Day spent 25 days in a New York jail for refusing to participate in an atomic air-raid drill. "The prison sentence proves the effectiveness of our protest," she said. "We are no longer being thought of as a bunch of harmless religious fanatics."

Also, while in the South this summer, Miss Day was shot at—the first time in her life—during a racial disturbance. "I've had plenty of experience in the kind of war going on now in the South—it is part of the war going on throughout the world," she said.

In closing her talk, Miss Day said: "We haven't even begun yet. It's early—2000 years are as two days."

MINNEAPOLIS STAND-UP

On Nov. 29 the Minneapolis chapter of the Alumni Association will hold a dinner-dance at the Calhoun Beach Hotel. Minneapolis alumni should watch future issues of the



Dorothy Day had been to SJU several times before

Dorothy Day leaves Legacy but not at SJU



Dorothy Day

by Jeff Ethen

As co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement that spawned houses of hospitality for this country's oppressed in the 1930's, Dorothy Day left a legacy that continues to serve the needy today. In fact, more houses are springing up across the country, including ones in St. Cloud, Moorhead, and Minneapolis.

Miss Day, who died three years ago, devoted her life to fighting the inequalities of the American economic system. She did this through more than just talk, for she directed her energy to help the people who were affected by poverty in America. She spent time criss-crossing the continent, seeking support for her cause. She made public appearances and pro-

moted her numerous books to raise funds for her charitable projects. She published the Catholic Worker newspaper which still serves as a link between the oppressed and the American conscience.

It didn't take long for the more affluent portions of American society to recognize her zeal and commitment to the poor. Because she believed in the need for education and relished the stimulating, challenging dialogue of college students, universities began to bestow honorary degrees upon her. She accepted most of the awards when she could, and planned her train trips around the schedule of ceremonies. In this way she grasped the opportunity to reach the wealthy of America,

and enabled them to see their obligation to the more impoverished of the nation.

Because she was a woman of principle who shied away from those who took hypocritical stands on issues of peace and justice, she preferred to refuse awards and speaking engagements if the institution held a double standard when dealing with oppression. It was for this reason that she declined an honorary degree from St. John's in 1966, which would have been awarded at the opening ceremonies of the Alcuin Library.

For Day, peace couldn't be achieved through armed aggression or even from a military position. Extending a hand of peace while also claspng a weapon was

ambiguous to her because it put conditions on peace. For these reasons she rallied against the Vietnam War and assailed political leaders—including Minnesota's Hubert Humphrey—who took a hawkish stand on that Asian war. She was vigorously opposed to the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) presence on college campuses, and was even more adamant to its existence at St. John's because she claimed that it went against the peace tradition that the Benedictine community projected. There simply wasn't room for both, in her opinion, and in an April 5, 1966 letter to then-SJU President Colman Barry, OSB, she reluctantly turned down the university's proffered degree. "I am sure you understand," she wrote President Barry, "especially right now in view of our country's involvement in Vietnam, our opposition to ROTC, and our involvement in civil disobedience, draft refusal, etc." She had refused two other degrees from Catholic colleges for similar reasons, only those she was able to turn down informally over the telephone in order to save both parties from any embarrassment from premature public relations.

The Record December 1, 1983, p. 3

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*Dorothy Day - Catholic Worker Coll
Box 10 - D-15*
The Catholic Worker
Detroit, Michigan
April 5, 1966

President Colman J. Barry, O.S.B.
Saint John's University
Collegeville, Minn.

Dear Father Colman,

This is a terribly difficult letter for me to write, especially since I am answering it late. I was travelling in New England and spending a week in Manchester to attend conferences on Religion and Peace at the request of Michael Wright and my visit was held at Christie Street and only just reached my hotel on Saturday when I was setting out on a mid-western trip. I have been in misery since as to how to express what I feel, since I am refusing the great honor you have offered me. Let me say first of all, that I love Saint John's and have loved the Benedictines ever since the days of Fr. Virgil Michel who was my great friend of Peter Maurin. From the beginning of the Catholic Worker I have always been made welcome there. I am myself an oblate of Saint Benedict of Saint Procopius Abbey and many of our former Catholic workers are Oblates. This letter would be too long to tell all we have learned from Saint Benedict.

But I cannot accept the honorary laurea you so generously offer. I have had to refuse the other honorary degrees from two other Catholic colleges, (Jesuit and Christian Brothers) offered informally by telephone so that neither they nor I would be embarrassed.

I am sure you understand, dear Father Colman, especially right now in view of our country's involvement in Viet Nam, our opposition to ROTC and our own involvement in civil disobedience, that refusal (not draft dodging) etc. Since it is not taken up to the University of Minnesota Human Club for their meetings April 13th to 16th, I could be next sorry if you could write me there. Otherwise I could feel not at ease in visiting Saint John's as I usually do when my work takes me nearby.

Please understand and forgive my late reply, which was not my fault since I only just received the letter last week.

Gratefully yours, in Christ,

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"From the beginning of the Catholic Worker I have always been made welcome there. I am myself an oblate..."

April 5, 1966 letter from Dorothy Day to Fr. Colman Barry
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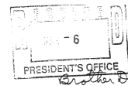
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April 5, 1966 letter from Dorothy Day to Fr. Colman Barry
O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Digital Archives\People\Day, Dorothy



29436 Kels Ct, St Joseph, MO
3-5-97

Walter Britton, President & Historian
Re: Dorothy Day & honorary degree
Dr. Britton,
In last week's St. Cloud Visitor I saw repeated the frequent statement that in 1966 Dorothy Day refused SJU's honorary degree because of ROTC.

That is not true. Over the past 30 years I've often explained to your conferees & others the actual facts.

In connection with the dedication of Alvin Library, Fr. Colman invited a number (a half day) to spend a day in discussion with students & then receive the honorary doctorate. He put me in charge of arranging things on campus for these discussions, etc.

Fr. Colman told me Dr. Day wouldn't come because she refused to be at the same event as VP Hubert Humphrey & asked me to phone Dr. Day to persuade her to come. (I had spent the summer of 1945 at the C. U. in m.p.c. & spent several weeks long visits in following years, so knew Dr. Day very well)

Dr. Day said she would come if we discriminated VP H. Humphrey. There was a Let rid of Humphrey

Charles Palmer
29436 Kels Ct
St. Joseph, MO 64504

Another letter concerning Dorothy Day and the library's dedication –

from Sylvester Theisen, professor of Sociology & Philosophy, coordinator of CSB/SJU cooperation, and friend of Dorothy Day

29436 Kelo Ct, St Joseph, MO
 3-5-97

PRESIDENTS OFFICE
 6

Dr. Daniel, President & Victoria
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Some of your conferees & some students opposed to ROTC have used D. Day's refusal as a weapon ^{against ROTC} ^{It's simply} not true and so is a misuse.

I gave up years ago on this. But if a history of SJU is written, I hope the facts will be correct. It probably now has a life of its own - repeatedly stated - and so hopeless to correct.

D. Day was opposed to ROTC. But that is not why she didn't come in 1966. She accepted honors from colleges & unis (e.g. ND) with ROTC.

I know - because I am the one charged with persuading her to come - that she would have come to get STH award had we simply banned the VP.H.H. ^{side pay on it}

"D. Day said she would come if we disinvited VP H. Humphrey. There was no other demand. Get rid of Humphrey and she would come. She did not mention ROTC. Only VP Humphrey (because of Vietnam War). I (we) refused to do that."

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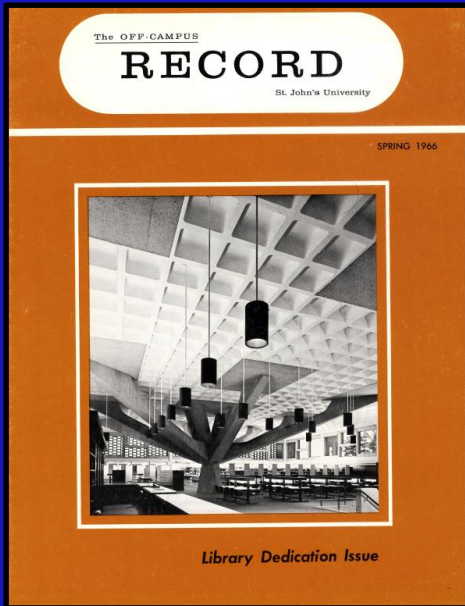
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by Peggy Landwehr Roske,
CSB/SJU Archivist.
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1966-03 SJU Alumni Magazine Volume 06 Number 01 Spring cover
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/1321/rec/19>

161 years ago TODAY

Boniface Wimmer arrived on the 18. of Oct., 1856, at 5 o'clock in the morning, to visit us for the first time and entered our house while we were in the choir, he was greatly pleased and edified at the disposition and religious zeal which prevailed. He did not interrupt our prayer but patiently waited behind the curtain door of our chapel until we had finished our office and the 2 lay brothers had recited the rosary together in the kitchen.

P. Bruno, O. S. B.

1889-03-01, The Record, p. 26

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/8034>