A Great Seminary in the Making
By Mary G. Murphy

The lake—someone has called this part of Illinois, the “Killarney of America”—is placed between the brown hills bordering it. Like Killarney lakes, it has its surprises. Promontories jut out here and there to make a diorama through which one may view more beauty of landscape. And along the sweeping frontage across the bright expanse of water, overlooking the plaza and buildings, may be seen the site selected for the Cardinal’s summer villa. There is no building upon it, but there is to be seen, as far as the naked eye can see, the great American flag spread along the rising bank; a flag with red flowers and white stone borders to make the stripes, and with blue flowers and white to make the stars and the blue ground. This is one of many feats of landscape gardening which give an idea of what will be finally done when St. Mary’s of the Lake Seminary is finished.

A flowery garden that represents the American flag—a flower flag that can be seen from points miles away—the Star Spangled Banner that in the rising of the sun and its going down meets the eyes of the seminarians and priests every day as they hurry from class to class.

Along the lake front there is a drop of eighteen feet down to the pier where a boathouse will be built. A balustrade of white stone borders the broad walk that follows the winding beach in a geometrical segment of a huge circle. One thinks of Italy as one leans over the balustrade to look down into the lake far below. One thinks of St. Peter’s, Rome, where one turns around from the lake to view the buildings across the plaza, that part of St. Peter’s where one approaches the altar.

But there the beauty stops. The chapel now being completed is, like the rest of the buildings, a piece of beauty out of our own Colonial period of architecture. A one hundred and eighty-five foot spire will point heavenward from this edifice. Fifteen altars, one for every mystery of the Rosary, will fill niches in the lower chapel. The decorators are now at work on the interior, so that by next June this beautiful edifice will be ready for its dedication to the Immaculate Conception.

The Chapel, of which the corner stone was laid on May 25th of this year, is a memorial to Lt. Ed. Hines, Jr., who died in the service of his country during the World War. It is the gift of his parents, Edward Hines, K. S. G., and Mrs. Hines, and will cost $500,000.

Under the high altar a crypt is being built in which the body of George Cardinal Mundelein, the prelate who has dreamed this great institution and is now bringing it into being, will be laid to rest when life’s labor is finished.

The chapel, with fitting symbolism, has been placed by the architect, Joseph McCarthy, K. S. G., in the center of the semi-circle which forms the building line for the principal buildings which border the lake front. On its left are already built the Philosophy Lecture Hall, an immense building fully equipped with the most modern appliances for the study of the sciences as well as philosophy; the Hall of Philosophers, where the students rooms are situated; the Convent, where live the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who attend to the domestic department of the seminary; the Hall of Theologians and the Refectory. To the right of the chapel, the Theologian Lecture Hall will soon be erected, together with the Faculty House, the Auditorium, Administration Building and the Library.

All these buildings will face the lake and will follow a design of classic unity, carefully based upon the canons of American Colonial architecture. They are of red brick with white stone borders and the glass of the windows is stained in the colors of the American flag. In the center of the front of the chapel, with fitting symbolism, is placed the American flag, and in the middle of the steps a stone plaque is to be placed which will give an idea of what will be finally done when the Seminary is finished.
A group of seminarians

decorations. Inside, the woodwork is of white enamel. The two dormitories already built and well filled with students are nothing like the old-fashioned dormitory of seminaries and colleges. Students at St. Mary's of the Lake have, every one of them, private rooms. The seminary living quarters are more like a modern hotel. Priests of the Chicago archdiocese contributed $1,000 each for the furnishing of 150 rooms in the Hall of Theologians and 125 rooms in the Hall of Philosophy. Every room is commodious and adapted to the comfort of the students. Each has his own shower bath and toilet; a large chest, a steel enameled bed; a solid mahogany desk, chair, and dresser is in every room. Tall windows let in the sunlight during the day and well arranged electric lights make the rooms bright at night. Each room measures 14 feet square. The systematic handling of the students' laundry and dry cleaning is similar to that of the best hotels.

But it is to the refectory that even the seminarian turns for the standard of his college's hospitality. At St. Mary's one finds again perfection. Remember the dining-room of the older seminaries, one visits the six large dining-rooms here seating capacity of three hundred in one and two hundred in the other: cheerful and sunny, with white and gray ceilings and walls. There one finds fine napery exquisitely white, silver and china that go a long way toward making gentlemen of America's future priests, as far as the niceties of living are concerned. This in itself is worthy of note. It symbolizes the progress of American Catholicity out of the crudeness of the early brick and mortar period into the new day of leisurely study for which our priests of the future will have so often prayed.

To the growing youth the kitchen is important. St. Mary's kitchen is recklessly modern. It is even a picture in itself. First it is immaculately clean, all the wares of religious orders can make such departments immaculate. Added to this is its striking modernity. It has every appliance and every device known for the saving of labor and the quick and efficient service needed to satisfy hungry crowds of young men out from classes. Steam ovens, roasting ovens, gas ovens, huge gas plates for the great American dish, wheat cakes, toasting racks attempt to save at the cost of the health of the students. The thin, gaunt theologian of the past has vanished with the realization of the ideal seminary of Cardinal Mundelein's dream.

Beyond the buildings fronting the Lake are the gymnasium, the gift of R. F. C. Mudd, now in process of construction, a large brick alley for volley ball, and the power house, already built and in operation. A warehouse, a laundry, a garage, greenhouses and workman's quarters will be erected in the near future.

Already, before the building to house it has been built, has come the nucleus of what probably will be the greatest library of the United States, 10,000 books. Of this number 40,000 have been brought from Rome by the Cardinal, and are now being unpacked and housed temporarily in the school of Theology. The imported books range in subject through all the arts and all the departments of learning. Old and rare books in Latin, French, Spanish, German, Greek, Gaelic and other languages, are now piled awaiting the catalogue.

The School of Theology has another feature to the visitor: beside its unique library. There are the old masters of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth centuries temporarily hung along its corridors. These include originals by Paolo Veronese; Titian, Van Dyke, El Greco, and many others. There are the Cleveland and New York collections of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth centuries. These are a few of the many treasures of the School of Theology which will be exhibited in the future.

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