



New Chapel Seminary Sketch

Acorns & Oaks
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A new seminary building on the St. Ambrose campus will be started this year to fill a long-standing need for additional facilities in this area. It will replace areas in Ambrose Hall which have served the college and the Diocese since 1885.

The decision to construct new residence and classroom quarters for the seminarians adjacent to Christ the King Chapel is the result of several planning meetings with advisors, trustees and members of the administrative council. All were agreed that the new construction would provide the necessary privacy for seminarians, while, at the same time, open new areas in Ambrose Hall for vitally needed classroom and dormitory space.

Continued growth of St. Ambrose, a move that now seems inevitable, must proceed with the utmost care in planning. The great teaching traditions at the college by the priest-faculty will be enhanced in future years by the erection of facilities conducive to studying and thinking and praying in private.

Today more than 500 priest-alumni of St. Ambrose serve the laity throughout the United States. One hundred and eighty-five of the 220 priests in the Diocese of Davenport received all or part of their training at St. Ambrose.

With this in mind the college administrators announced plans for the construction of the building that will house more than 50 seminarians in double and single rooms, eight faculty members, classrooms, seminar area and reading rooms. The u-shaped addition will be connected to the east side of the chapel at two spots and will feature an enclosed court with

free-form design in stone, shrubbery and trees.

The new building will measure 123 feet wide and 148 feet deep. Approximately 100 feet will separate it from the existing East Hall and the court will measure 80 by 80.

Three stairways and an elevator will lead from the first floor with its lobby, parlor, classrooms and other study areas. Corridors will overlook the court from three sides.

The second floor will contain quarters for the rector, spiritual director and three priests of the faculty. These suites will offer complete privacy and are so designed they may easily be converted to rooms for seminarians when the need arises. The east wing will house twenty seminarians in double rooms and six in single rooms.

The third floor will have no south wing. As on the second floor, the east wing will house 20 students in double rooms and six in single rooms. The north wing will house three priests of the faculty.

Only the east wing will be excavated. This will provide space for a utility room and an area for recreation. It will be so designed that it can serve as a fallout shelter.

All rooms will be harmoniously decorated in the manner of Davis Hall and East Hall, present residence halls for college students. Like East Hall, each room will have its own thermostat for controlled heating and air conditioning. A lavatory will be provided for each room and central areas will accommodate shower and toilet facilities.