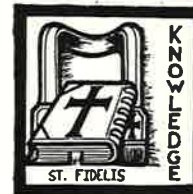




# The Fidelian



Vol. 82, No. 4

ST. FIDELIS SEMINARY HIGH SCHOOL, HERMAN, PA. 16039

May 28, 1980

## St. Fidelis Closed By Chapter

On April 18, 1877, St. Fidelis opened its doors to young men as a high school seminary. It was also on that same date, only one hundred and three years later, that the present student body was informed that St. Fidelis would be closing, effective May 31, 1980. The decision was made by the business chapter of St. Augustine's Capuchin Province.

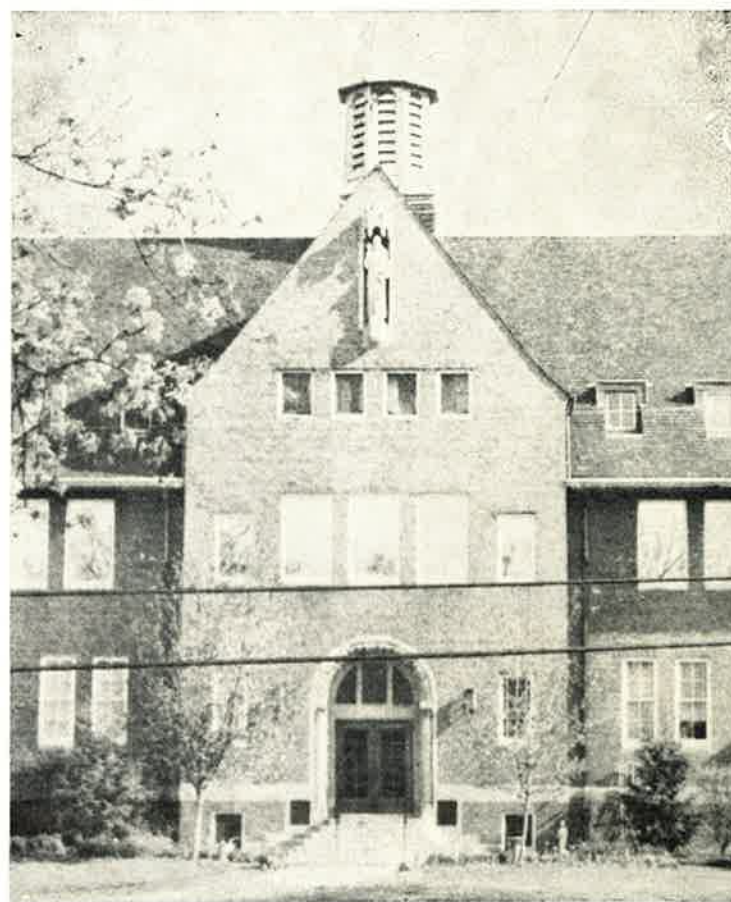
To the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine's, St. Fidelis has been its birth place. Almost every friar without exception, has either began his vocational journey at St. Fidelis, or has spent time here in some capacity. For one hundred and three years St. Fidelis has stood as an institution that fostered the total development of young Christian men.

The freshman class of 1960 with 112 members was the largest class to enter St. Fidelis

throughout its history. However, enrollment began to decline shortly thereafter, and has continued to the present, with the projected enrollment of ten freshmen seminarians for the year 1981. Due to the decreasing enrollment, questions arose concerning the future of St. Fidelis. The heart of the matter was the basic question, "How small can we allow the student body of St. Fidelis to become and still maintain the quality programs necessary for a seminarian in the twentieth century?" An evaluation and self-study was conducted concerning the seminary and in 1977, under the direction of Fr. Adrian Fuerst, O.S.B., the day student program was initiated in an attempt to compliment the seminarian program, and to help increase enrollment. Despite these efforts, the enrollment

in the seminarian program continued to dwindle.

When the ordinary business chapter of 1980 met in April, the friars had gathered not only to discuss the missions, ministries, finances, prayer life of the Capuchins, and the direction of the Province of St. Augustine for the 1980's but also to discuss and vote on the future of St. Fidelis. Previously, all of the friars of the province had assembled and discussed this question. This assembly was held not only to provide concrete input to the business chapter, but also to provide an atmosphere of prayer and reflection through which this issue could be finalized. On the morning of Thursday, April 17, 1980, a straw ballot was taken which indicated the possibility of the closing of St. Fidelis. After lunch, the friars of the business chapter again reassembled to take the final vote concerning the future of St. Fidelis. When the vote had been tallied, the announcement was made that St. Fidelis would close. It was decided that the doors to St. Fidelis would close with the graduation ceremony of the academic year of 1979-1980. The decision to close St. Fidelis was very difficult to make not only because of emo-



tional reasons, but because of strong beliefs in the values embodied by St. Fidelis and its students. Notwithstanding these positive points, there was still one overwhelming,

insurmountable obstacle to the future of St. Fidelis. As Fr. Bernard Finerty, O.F.M. Cap., a delegate to the business chapter stated, the business  
(Continued on page 5)

## New Provincial Elected

Fr. Robert L. McCreary, O.F.M. Cap., former president of St. Fidelis College, was elected Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Augustine on April 17, 1980. The vote came after three days of thought, consideration and prayer by all of the voting delegates, forty in all; twenty *ex-officio's* and twenty elected.

earned his Doctorate in Spiritual Theology from Gregorian University in Rome in 1962 and has taught at Catholic University in Washington, DC. Along with this, he was a professor of Theology at Capuchin College in Washington, DC where he taught Christology Dogma and Ascetical Theology.

Fr. Bob was a professor at Washington Theological Union for three years and he taught Christology there. He was a definator in Washington for a total of nine years, the last three he spent as vicar provincial.

He became president of St. Fidelis College in 1974 and remained there until it closed in May of 1979. He moved with the college to Borromeo in Wickliffe, Ohio and is now a Spiritual Director there.

Fr. Bob was very much surprised when he was elected and he considers it an honor to be Minister Provincial. He wants to stimulate good ministerial planning by various responsible groups of friars. He thinks the best results would come if the men themselves are involved in the decision-making process as much as possible. He also hopes to concentrate on St. Francis as a source of inspiration in the friars' lives through retreats, continuing education, and house chapters.



Fr. Robert McCreary

The chapter delegates meet every three years to elect a minister provincial. Fr. Robert McCreary succeeded Fr. Brendan Malloy, O.F.M. Cap., who was head of the province for nine years.

Fr. Bob is a native of Beaver, Pennsylvania. His father, a well-known doctor, is deceased, but his mother still resides in Beaver. Fr. Robert

## St. Fidelis Graduates 14 Seniors

On May 31, 1980, St. Fidelis will conduct its one hundred and third graduation exercise. The Commencement Exercises will begin at ten o'clock in the morning with Fr. Robert L. McCreary, O.F.M. Cap., the newly-elected provincial, as the commencement speaker. Raymond Betz, senior, has been chosen as the Class Valedictorian. The Graduation Liturgy will immediately follow, with Fr. William Wiethorn, O.F.M. Cap as the main Celebrant, and Fr. Gary Powell, O.F.M. Cap., as the Homilist. A dinner for the seniors, their families, and invited guests will be held in the seminary dining room after the graduation liturgy.

The Class of '80 entered St. Fidelis in 1976 with twenty-five unique and anxious students who had to become acquainted with unfamiliar personalities. Fr. Bill Gillum, O.F.M. Cap., was always there to instruct them in doing

house chores, and to help teach them the ropes of seminary life. The class became involved in sports, with Tom Yost and, Rick and Ron Slater working hard on the soccer field. Tom Rizza spent time proclaiming Catholic doctrine throughout the compound.

Fr. Gary Powell, O.F.M. Cap. undertook the task of sopho-

more sponsor, with four new students, the class numbered twenty-two. The class became known for late-night parties and after-hours trips to the clubroom to watch TV. However, they could never escape Fr. Gary's mischievousness when it came to making "busts." The Class of '80 ex-  
(Continued on page 6)



FIRST ROW (Left to Right): Joel Cook, Steve Goettler, Rich Braun, Phil Lavery, Mark Gresham, Ray Betz, George Gipko, Rick Slater, Tom Yost. SECOND ROW (Left to Right): Ron Slater, Tom Rizza, Dave Nestler, Bernie Stock, Steve Vitunic.

# HISTORY SPANS 103 YEARS

By Dave Schaffner  
and Jeff Daus

The legacy of St. Fidelis began when Fr. Hyacinth Epp, O.F.M. Cap., Fr. Matthew Hau, O.F.M. Cap., and Br. Eleutherius Guggenbichler, O.F.M. Cap., the founders of the Prov-



ST. FIDELIS 1877

ince of St. Augustine, were forced to leave Bavaria, Germany. They came to America to seek religious freedom and to escape the oppression of Otto Von Bismarck, otherwise known as the "Iron Chancellor," the ruler of Prussia. Seeking a haven in the new world, they landed in New York on October 12, 1872. They then moved to Pittsburgh where they began their ministry at St. Augustine's Parish in 1874 at the request of Bishop Domenec.

Concern for the future of their newly-found mission led them to begin a monastic school. The school which they developed in Pittsburgh was shortly moved to Herman, Pennsylvania. The reason for the move to Herman was not only because the friars thought that the location would be more conducive to students studying for the priesthood but also because the landscape reminded them of their native Bavaria. With an enrollment of three students, William Grabbe, Alphonse Feil, and Alphonse Schmidtberger, St. Fidelis held its first class on April 18, 1877. Fr. Maurice Greck, O.F.M.



Fr. Maurice Greck

Cap., was the first rector of the newly-formed seminary, which was actually a small six-room house which was formerly used as the rectory of St. Mary's Parish. The seminary at Herman was founded only five years after the first Capuchin friars arrived in Amer-

1886 of bricks which were hand-made on what is presently the campus grounds. By this time, there were twenty students in attendance under the supervision of Fr. Boniface Rosenberger, O.F.M. Cap.

Fr. Boniface was the first rector of St. Fidelis after the seminary had split from other administrative offices of St. Mary's Parish. Before this time, the director of the seminary-college was the Pastor of St. Mary's as well as the leader of the friars' religious community. In October of 1891 a memorable event occurred in Capuchin history. This historical event took place when The Most Rev. Bernard Cristen of Andermatt, Minister General of the Capuchin Order, visited St. Fidelis for three days, from October 17-19, 1891. It was the first time a Minister General ever made a Canonical Visitation to the continent of North America.

It was during the time of the next rector, Fr. Constantine Hoefler, O.F.M. Cap., that the chapel, dedicated to St. Anthony, was erected. The cornerstone was laid on October 4, 1898. The chapel was finally dedicated on June 13, 1899 by The Rev. Richard Phelan, D.D., Bishop of Pittsburgh. The auditorium, which was in the basement of the chapel,



THE OLD ST. ANTHONY CHAPEL

whole. These were ideals which were carried on throughout 103 years and which will live on forever.

St. Fidelis began expanding only one year after its arrival in Herman. This first expansion consisted of one room measuring 52 by 30 feet for additional dormitory and classroom space. This addition was necessary as a result of the increasing number of students. The cost for this addition amounted to \$1,300. By 1887, ten years after St. Fidelis first opened its doors, it had arisen into a three-story brick building on what is currently the site of St. Fidelis Hall. This older rendition of St. Fidelis Hall was built in

was fitted for the use of musical and dramatic presentations.

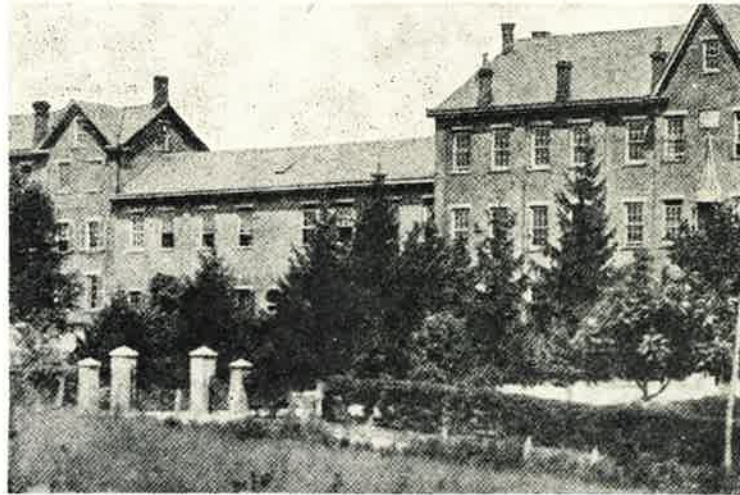
Fr. Boniface Weckmann, O.F.M. Cap., succeeded Fr. Constantine as rector and held this office for 14 years, the longest term of any such administrator in the history of St. Fidelis.

In 1918 a flu epidemic, that was allegedly brought to America by overseas war veterans; which ravaged the nation, broke out at St. Fidelis. As a result of this epidemic, classes were cancelled for about a month and the students were sent home. Several students, however, remained at the school because they were too sick to travel. One student,

John Grace, died as a consequence of the virus. Even without proper facilities to treat the epidemic at St. Fidelis, Br. Fabian Larkamp, O.F.M. Cap., the infirmarian at the time, aided by Sister Mary, a Good

its power to attract seminarians on a free afternoon.

Although the date of its organization is uncertain, the St. Fidelis Band was under the directorship of Fr. Albert Bliss, O.F.M. Cap., by 1918. It became



ST. FIDELIS 1910

Shepherd nun, worked hard and no doubt saved many lives. Also at the end of May of that same school year, one student was diagnosed as having scarlet fever and the student body was again sent home.

The property to the south of St. Fidelis was acquired about 1915. It was this land that contained the area that was to become a favorite spot for generations of seminarians — the ink well. The need for lumber for construction purposes led the friars to harvest the trees in the area. In 1924, Fr. Austin Waldvogel, O.F.M. Cap., upgraded an already existing dam, through the labors of the Capuchin novices of the time, to provide a swimming hole. Although a place of recreation and refreshment on hot summer days, the water always had a black coloration from the drainage of a nearby oil well which resulted in the pond being dubbed the ink well. Through the years, the dam has deteriorated, so that the pool has become a swamp; the road once heavily traveled by wagons transporting lumber is over-grown; and the open area has again been reclaimed by the trees, yet the ink well has still maintained

quite a source of entertainment for the people of Herman as well as an artistic outlet for the students. The band performed mainly on free days with its big show being on the Feast of *Corpus Christi*. On this feast there was an outdoor procession with benediction at several locations. The band



Fr. Benno Haggemiller

provided a solemn and sacred atmosphere. The band continued until the 40's. However, after the fire the band lost its popularity among the students and faded away.

Although the location of St. Fidelis had been chosen by the founders of the province, it became apparent that better access was needed as the institution moved into the twentieth century. Under the di-



THE "GERMAN NUNS"



ST. FIDELIS 1980

rection of Fr. Felix M. Kirsch, O.F.M. Cap., a committee of men from St. Mary's Parish was set up to study the problem. Because of their efforts the Herman Road was constructed in 1922, which greatly facilitated travel to and from the seminary.

Over the years many different activities have come to the foreground depending on the various interests of the friars involved at St. Fidelis at the time. In 1931 Fr. Benno Haggemiller, O.F.M. Cap., brought to St. Fidelis a talent and interest he possessed, astronomy. The first observatory he constructed was made out of brick and contained a 4-inch refractor. Several years later, however, as his interest grew, a second observatory was built which contained an eleven-inch reflector. Fr. Benno brought to the science of astronomy an appreciation for God's handiwork in the stars and communicated this to his students.

It was during the rectorship of Fr. Boniface that plans for the building of a new wing

were established. The cornerstone of St. Francis Hall, as it is known today, was laid on September 28, 1924 and the building was dedicated on October 4, 1925. Fr. Cornelius Pekari, O.F.M. Cap., was the director of this project.

In 1928 Fr. Linus Doemling, O.F.M. Cap., and several other friars made a journey to Pittsburgh and brought back to St. Fidelis eight Sisters of the Holy Infancy of Jesus, affectionately known as the "German Nuns." Their presence helped to maintain the old world flavor of Germany at St. Fidelis. This was evident through their celebration of St. Nicholas' Day, complete with German Christmas carols as well as the pork, sauerkraut, and mashed potatoes which was their culinary specialty.

The following words were spoken over forty years ago by Fr. Bertrand Brookman, O.F.M. Cap., describing his thoughts and feelings one March night in 1938:

*"I never knew what horror was until I was aroused from*

*sleep that terrible night and found myself groping about in a black cloud of fumes and smoke. The thought of 65 precious lives in the dormitory above filled me with terror I shall never forget."*

These words, of course, are describing the terrible fire

efactors to begin the construction of the new building. By the fall term of 1939, the students were attending classes in a brand new building. Also rising out of the ashes of the fire were the beginnings of a professionally organized libra-

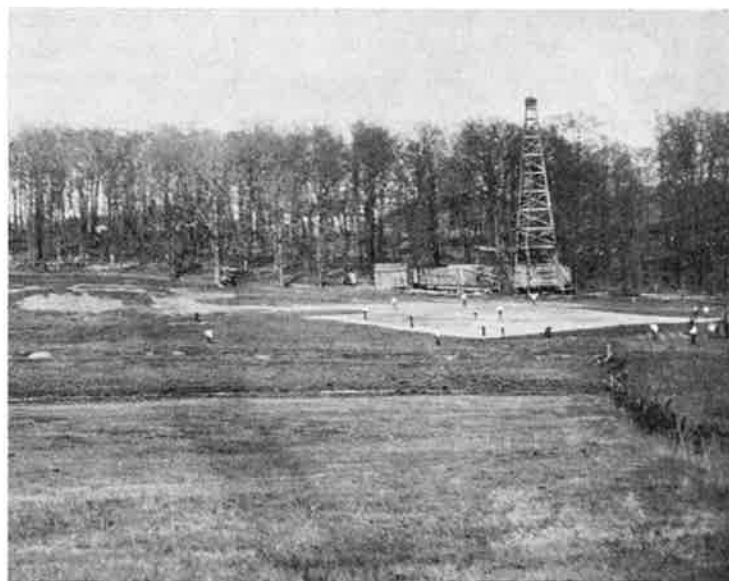
under the direction of Fr. Victor Green, O.F.M. Cap. This work transformed a ballfield with a swampy leftfield that sometimes included a pond, and a hilly rightfield into a dry, level recreation facility. Additional land also acquired un-



A SYMBOL OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

ry which was installed by Fr. Giles Staab, O.F.M. Cap. The man-made lake, Lake

der Fr. Victor's leadership included several oil wells. Although these wells provided a refuge and a hiding place for those students wishing to sneak a smoke, the moaning and squeaking of the rigs were



RECREATION IN 'THE GOOD OLD DAYS'

that ripped through the main hall of St. Fidelis on March 15, 1938. Of the 126 students enrolled, 65 were housed in the building that was burning. Fortunately, everyone escaped unharmed and the only deaths that occurred were those of Fr. Bertrand's parakeet and pet fish. Walter Heasley, the janitor at the time, was seriously burned in the fire but was treated at a hospital and soon recovered. It is supposed that the fire started in the workshop located in the basement of the building and then rapidly spread through the upper floors. The total damages of the fire were estimated to be \$350,000. The fire shocked many people and soon, enough money was raised through the generosity of friends and ben-

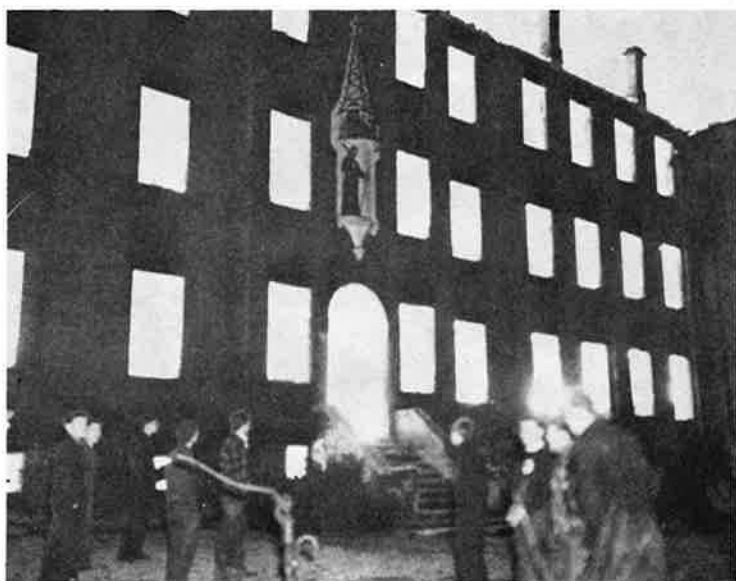
Norman, and the present ball field, the handball courts, along with the pavilion were all completed by the year 1941



FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

frequently responsible for sleepless nights.

These years of growth were during the rectorship of Fr. Bertrand Brookman, O.F.M. Cap., from 1932 to 1941. The grandfather clock, which is presently located in the hallway near the library entrance, was purchased by two diocesan priests at an auction from



THE IDES OF MARCH 1938



LAKE NORMAN



THE MAJESTIC TWELFTH STATION

the Mellon Estate. The clock was made in 1906 and was presented to St. Fidelis in 1939.

The eighteenth rector of the seminary was Fr. Victor Green, O.F.M. Cap., who presided from 1941-1950. It was during his term that an affiliation with the Catholic University took place. This affiliation, which was finalized in 1946, resulted in a need for a high school principal. While Fr. Victor held his position as rector, Fr. Aidan Lucko, O.F.M. Cap., became the first high school principal and was able to give diplomas to high school graduates. Fr. Victor mainly took care of the cleric program while Fr. Aidan watched over the six-year high school-college formation program.

On May 25, 1947, the outdoor Stations of the Cross were dedicated. The images in the various grottos of the Stations as well as the majestic twelfth station are hand-carved in Indiana limestone. The stations' grottos were made from stones which were salvaged from the old St. Fidelis Hall which burned. Mr. Joseph Kuhn, a resident of Herman,



was responsible for the masonry work on this project.

It was during the rectorship of Fr. Patrick McGann, O.F.M. Cap., and Fr. Roch Raible, O.F.M. Cap., the second high school principal, that many accomplishments were achieved in both physical and academic areas. In 1951 the



ST. LAWRENCE HALL

college was chartered and received the right to confer a Bachelor of Arts degree by the State of Pennsylvania.

In response to the increased enrollment, and expanding needs of the institution, a new addition was attached to the monastery in 1954. This new building replaced the novitiate wing and housed the junior and senior Capuchin collegians. Also added was a two-story monastery library. Additional dormitory space was allotted at the eastern end of the compound. This new building brought an end to an era of sorts by replacing the al-

coves, or 48-man dorms on the top floor of St. Francis Hall. The addition, honoring St. Lawrence of Brindisi, was dedicated in 1958. In three years the enrollment peaked with 254 students in the high school program at St. Fidelis. St. Lawrence Hall consists of three floors and a basement. The basement served as a temporary chapel while the second chapel, again dedicated to St. Anthony was being built. The refectory was also enlarged by one-half its size at this time. Outside of St. Lawrence Hall, a parking lot and basketball courts were constructed to provide recreational facilities and ample parking for parents' Visiting Sundays.

In 1958 a swimming pool for faculty and student use was excavated behind St. Anthony's Chapel almost exclusively by the labor of Fr. Kieran Quinn, O.F.M. Cap., and student friars. Fr. Kieran served as rector from 1959 until 1962 and during this time the St. Fidelis Field House was built. The Field House, affectionately referred to as the "cow palace," was a multi-purpose recreation building which contained a gymnasium that could also be used as an auditorium. Many sports activities have taken place in the gym; the highlight being when the St. Fidelis Falcons became the Class "C" state basketball champions of 1970.

The next expansion for St. Fidelis came in the year of 1964 when the new chapel,



THE NEW ST. ANTHONY CHAPEL

dents a wide variety of majors and an almost limitless selection of courses.

In 1974 the "German Nuns," because of the needs of their own Order, were recalled to their motherhouse in Plainfield, New Jersey. This ended 46 years of dedicated service to the students and friars of St. Fidelis.

In the spring of 1977, during the seminary's celebration of their one hundredth anniversary, they were honored by a visitation of Fr. Paschal Rywalski, O.F.M. Cap., Minister General of the Capuchins, who presided at the ceremonies.

In the spring of 1978 it was decided, by a vote of the Provincial Chapter, to close St. Fidelis College because of increased costs and decreased enrollment. Not unlike the original founders of the Province, motivated by a concern for the future of the Order, Fr. Robert McCreary, O.F.M. Cap., Fr. William Fey, O.F.M. Cap., and Fr. William Henn, O.F.M. Cap., began a college level formation program in affiliation with St. Charles Borromeo College Seminary of Wickliffe, Ohio.

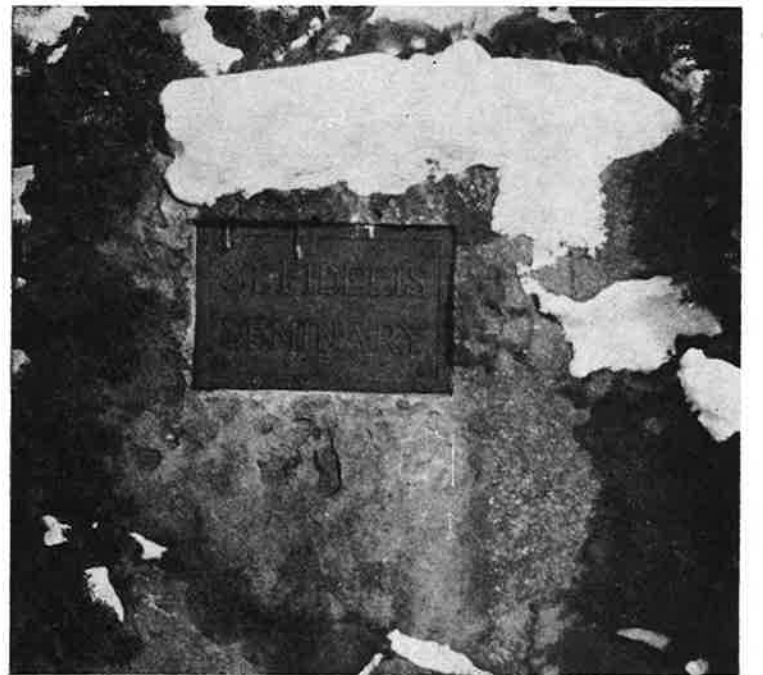
Two years later, in the spring of 1980, the Chapter met again. With the same problems of higher costs and lower enrollment plaguing the high school,

it was decided to close St. Fidelis High School at the end of the current school year.

Perhaps ironically, the announcement concerning the closing of St. Fidelis was made to the students on April 18, 1980, exactly 103 years, to the day, that the legacy of St. Fidelis began.



Classes graduate, events fade, and people pass, all of this is evident in the history of St. Fidelis. But equally evident is the strength and the continuation of a spirit. St. Fidelis is more than just buildings and events, it is a spirit that lives on. A spirit of Virtue and Knowledge, a spirit filled with Christian values and character that lives on in the lives of the Priests, religious, and laymen who have been a part of the history and tradition of St. Fidelis.



# Juniors Look Back On St. Fidelis

On September 5, 1977, sixteen young men entered St. Fidelis as the Class of '81. As always with freshmen, the new surroundings frightened us. The school was new to us and we were new to the school. Three of us were the first day students of the program that was initiated that year. Together the sixteen of us began to learn "the way of Fidelis." Fr. Bill Gillum, O.F.M. Cap., was there as our sponsor to guide us. With him we learned what makes a class sponsor happy. We learned that cleanliness is next to Godliness and we began to show the potential that we had as individuals and as a class. We began to discover the truth about who we were and who God was.

Our sophomore year began under the short reign of Fr. John Pavlik, O.F.M. Cap., as our class sponsor. We began the year with high ideals and goals which we attempted to live up to. We eagerly accepted our "responsibility" for initiating the freshmen. We also began to discover the real responsibilities to ourselves, our classmates, and the school. We were challenged by the tough academic schedule. Our response to the challenge proved that we were academically one of the strongest classes to enter St. Fidelis in recent years. Most importantly, in our sophomore year we really became part of St. Fidelis and it be-



**FIRST ROW (Left to Right):** Gene D'Antonio, Tom Fait, Joe Poth, Mike Fitzpatrick. **SECOND ROW (Left to Right):** Chris McKinney, Jim Burns, Tom Martin, Tim Newcamp, Tom McGinnis. **THIRD ROW (Left to Right):** Paul Hudock, Dave Schaffner, John Luke, Jeff Dauses, Mike King.

came part of us. We participated in all aspects of school life and whether on stage, basketball court, soccer field or in the classroom, we brought all of our talents and enthusiasm to bear.

We returned for our junior year with the confidence and spirit gained during our first two years at St. Fidelis. Br. Regis Franz, O.F.M. Cap., was our class sponsor and we moved into the luxury of private rooms. We had more personal responsibility and freedom than we had previously experienced. We also began to provide some of the leadership in the school. One of the highlights of the year was receiving our class rings, which are

a symbol of our position as upperclassmen. Living on the same floor with the seniors and their class sponsor helped to foster even more the family spirit which plays such an important role in life at St. Fidelis. During this year the Capuchin spirit began to have a greater effect on many in the class.

St. Fidelis has taught us more than Math, English, and Sciences. It taught us about ourselves. It helped us become respectable young men in our community and Church. For this reason we thank the faculty for their care, understanding and for their ever-positive influence. Most of all, we wish to thank our parents and families for their constant love and support.

## St. Fidelis Closed

(Continued from page 1)

chapter thought that the number of recruits was insufficient for St. Fidelis to maintain good programs and a healthy atmosphere.

After the shocking news had been announced to the chapter, Fr. William Wiethorn, O.F.M. Cap., Principal of St. Fidelis, had the duty to announce the news to the faculty of St. Fidelis, the workers, and most of all, break the news to the students. That same Thursday when the vote was taken, Fr. Bill called a meeting of the religious faculty in the evening. At that meeting, the friars learned of the decision. Fr. Bill then spoke to the lay faculty over the phone and revealed the sad news.

At 3:15 on Friday, the following day, the community gathered in the chapel. All eyes were fixed on Fr. Bill as he faced the community and, with tears in his eyes, announced the closing of St. Fidelis. The reaction was one of stunned silence followed by community prayer. The heavy burden of the news was shared by all. Emerging out of their immediate reaction, the students demonstrated and embodied the finest values which St. Fidelis has sought to foster throughout its 103-year history. The evidence of these values were apparent throughout the campus: a pat on the back for support, a word of hope for a brighter future, an ear tuned to the words of pain, a guiding hand in friendship, but most of all a spirit united through a mutual trust in God.

Looking to the future Frs. Ron Dawson and Dale DeNinno believe that a continuation of vocational talks to 7th and 8th grade boys, and young men in high school must be continued. It is vitally important that the friars reach out to individuals considering a religious vocation. PROJECT PROBE should then be seen as complementing and supporting those boys who are interested in thinking, learning, and praying about a calling to the religious way of life.

Another area for consideration is the province's high school contact program. In addition to the present students of St. Fidelis, other individuals of high school age would be invited to participate in weekend programs, recollection days, social events, and other activities geared toward a greater understanding of a religious vocation and Capuchin life. In addition, at least one friar from the present high school faculty will have as his full-time ministry the responsibility of keeping in contact with the current students of St. Fidelis and helping them to develop their vocation.

The decision to close St. Fidelis High School Seminary demands a new vision for the Capuchin friars of the Province of St. Augustine. In discontinuing the current seminary program they must look for other ways of inviting young men to consider a commitment of their life to the Gospel of Jesus after the manner of Francis of Assisi.

## 'The Fidelian' Expresses Thanks

We, the staff for the last issue of *The Fidelian*, would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks. We would like to extend our thanks, first of all to you, our readers, for keeping an interest not only in our paper but also in the school itself and the activities that have taken place here at St. Fidelis.

We must also thank all of the benefactors who have in so many ways contributed to St. Fidelis. Without you, none

of this would have been possible.

Last of all we must thank all of the members of *The Fidelian* staffs throughout the history of St. Fidelis. It is with a deep sense of pride, a feeling of accomplishment, and a spirit of participation in a rich tradition that we write this final issue. Your contributions and work on the paper have made the tradition of *The Fidelian* something that we are proud to have been a part of. THANK YOU!

# Freshmen Class Recalls Past Year

We, the Class of 1983, were off to the usual start as rookies at St. Fidelis. None of us were used to living away from home, so we had a touch of homesickness. However, all of us got over it with support from Fr. Bill Gillum, O.F.M. Cap., the rest of the faculty, and the upperclassmen.

All of our class made friends easily with each other and also with the upperclassmen and faculty. We were given the guidelines and rules, and we adjusted very well with no complaints.

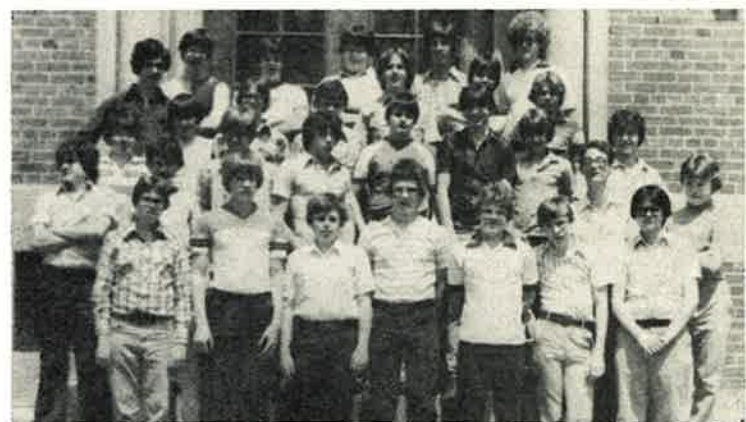
Soon after settling and getting used to everything, we looked forward to joining activities such as soccer, basketball, tennis, canteen, campus store, and *The Fidelian*. We were asked to form a folk group to play during Liturgies, and so we did with most of the work done on our own. We made good and creative night prayers for our own class night prayers. When it came time for our retreat, all of us cooperated and participated as much as we could to make it

worthwhile for each other.

We all had our ups and downs during 1980, but the biggest letdown was the decision to close St. Fidelis. All of us were surprised and upset, but soon we accepted it. Our biggest worry was about school

next year even though we have it the easiest.

Fr. Bill had this to say about us, "It's my hope they will continue to search out their vocations. I feel that there are good candidates for the religious life among them."



**FIRST ROW (Left to Right):** Glenn Heinle, Bill Malloy, Tim Miller, Jim Kradel, Jeff Cuny, Mike Lebler, Ed Day. **SECOND ROW (Left to Right):** Wayne Bartley, Chris Seezox, Dale Schnur, Paul Studeny, John Trimbur, Chuck Schmitzer, Dean Morris, Bill Linthurst, Paul McKinney, Pat Nagle. **THIRD ROW (Left to Right):** George Layton, Chris Kriley, Ted Facciolo, Mike Nolte, Regis Blahut, Scott Graham, Jim Kasper. **FOURTH ROW (Left to Right):** Al Dinello, John Borcz, Bob Sutton, Chris Lowe, Marty Sullivan, Bill Sellner.

*The Fidelian* **David R. Schaffner**  
 Editor-in-Chief *writer of the year* David R. Schaffner  
 Assistant Editor-in-Chief Jeffrey Dauses  
 Writers Br. Regis Franz, O.F.M. Cap., Philip Laver, John Luke, Jim Burns, Joe Poth, Paul Hudock, Joseph Young, Tom Fait  
 Typists Ms. Leona Coyle, Ms. Ethel Nebel, Pat Nagle, Tom Young, Chris McKinney, Ron Rambo  
 Photographer Tim Newcamp  
 Advisor Fr. Philip Fink, O.F.M. Cap.  
 Historical Advisor Fr. Adrian Conrad, O.F.M. Cap.

**INTERNATIONAL QUILL & SCROLL**  
 AN INTERNATIONAL FIRST PLACE PAPER  
 published four times during the school year  
 by the students of  
 ST. FIDELIS SEMINARY HIGH SCHOOL, Herman, PA 16039

Opinions expressed on this page are the opinions of the writers. They are not necessarily shared by the administration, faculty, or students at St. Fidelis.

## EDITORIAL

## A Student Reflects

I have lived on this earth for seventeen years. Undoubtedly the best of those seventeen years were the three I spent at St. Fidelis. When the announcement was made that it was going to close I was met with great sorrow. It was a kind of sorrow that I never had to deal with before and hopefully will never have to again. It was a feeling of great loss and is a feeling which will always remain with me. It wasn't the loss of anything material, or anything tangible, it was the loss of a great friend and a friend is something special which can never adequately be replaced.

If it had been only one year it would have been the same. A quiet sense of love had been developed for the school. All of the classes and studyhalls, which were never really enjoyed at that time are now looked back at as something that will never again be experienced by anyone. In the buildings which were known so well are memories that will always live on. Memories that would be incomplete without the people that were involved. It was the people that made the school and without these people the school would be nothing. It would be just empty hallways and rooms doing nothing but simply existing. The people filled those halls with life. If the buildings burnt to the ground the spirit of the people, who made St. Fidelis what it really was, would still live on. A spirit like that is not something that can be destroyed.

It was home. For nine months we lived there, and like a home it was a place where a person could be himself. Like a home it was a family. A family held together by a mutual love and respect for each other. And like a family it had its share of fights and arguments, happy times and sad times, good times and bad times. It was exactly what a home should be.

Enough cannot be said about the faculty. They touched our lives in such a special way that words cannot express the thanks that they deserve. For them it was a way of life. They were willing to devote their lives to helping us become what we are today. Truly they were a very special part of the family. The pain they felt in making the decision is indescribable.

As I look back on that day I cannot help but to remember why it was so sorrowful. It was because so many great things had come to an end. The years, the time and effort were all such good things. When things such as these come to an end, undoubtedly it will be a time of great sorrow. I then realized that such things were possible only through the work of God, so then, they could only come to an end because God willed it to be so. I found comfort in this, knowing that I had been sad and crying only because I had been so fortunate. So, in spite of the sorrow, I am thankful; thankful that I had been part of it. I have faith to realize that God would only let it happen because it was best, it would only happen because He has greater things in store for us.

## St. Fidelis Graduation

presses their thanks to Fr. Gary for showing what good humor, personality, and warmth can do for a person. Soon Drama, Speech, and Debate also played a major role in their school life.

By popular demand, Fr. Gary also became their junior sponsor, with four additional students, but the students lost over the summer outnumbered the students gain, so the total was down to eighteen. This year they strove to be generous with their time by volunteering for extra activities. The Class of '80 finally became unified, as a humorous, fun-loving class. They recall their

(Continued from page 1)

class retreats and reconciliation evenings which gave them a sense of community.

The Class of '80 returned as seniors with a spirit of accomplishment and "ready to go." Fr. Philip Fink, O.F.M. Cap., became the proud sponsor of the fourteen seniors. They moved to the ex-college dormitories, and their senior year began as a year of responsibilities and decisions. They challenged themselves and prayed for inspiration.

As the senior class ends this story at St. Fidelis, they will certainly reminisce over the past four years.

## Sophomores Reflect On Memories

The Class of '82 has, for its two-year stay at St. Fidelis, always been known and will probably always be remembered by its one most evident characteristic — an inexhaustible supply of enthusiasm and zest. Our liveliness is continually seen in all school activities, ranging from our great competitiveness down on the ballfield to our great zeal in the classroom.

background which is chiefly responsible for the energetic spirit within our class. Background is especially true as a factor. We are a widely diversified group having our roots as close as nearby Renfrew or as far away as Charleston; since, then, life-styles and attitudes stem from one's background, a great number of different backgrounds would result in a great number of dif-

our class.

In some way each member has had a profound effect on every other member, and also the school. Each is as interesting individually as the class is on the whole. After only two years together, a deep sense of unity amongst us has developed from a continual sharing in experiences and events, which is always the result of Christian community living.

Our class took the school by storm as freshmen with our great love for innocent fun, which when uncontrolled, got us into trouble with some of the faculty. In time, though, this sort of action subsided and the faculty found us to be a very enjoyable class. This year was a crucial time for growth, especially spiritually. Fr. Gary Powell, O.F.M. Cap., the present sponsor (succeeding Fr. Bill Gillum, O.F.M. Cap.), opened new channels for this both by constantly accentuating the importance of prayer and liturgy, and by having classmates accompany him on his various ministries to the surrounding areas. We were looking forward to our junior year here with great excitement.

With the reputedly most different and difficult year out of the way, we seemed more than ready to grapple with the challenges which were to lay ahead in the final two years.

With all of this going on for us, it is easy to understand why the closing of St. Fidelis is so disheartening. However, even though breaking apart weighs our hearts down heavily, the knowledge that we will never lose the love and friendship that was to be found within our own class, and that we have grown together in all facets of life, will never cease to be carried by all of us.



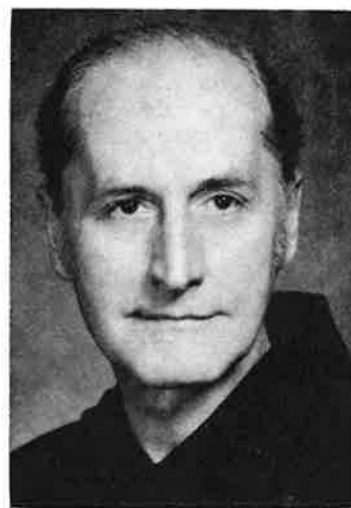
FIRST ROW (Left to Right): Mike Schnur, Pat Hughes, Ron Rambo, Dan Steighner. SECOND ROW (Left to Right): Gerry Clarke, Howard Bauer, Bill Clarke, Chuck Kaminski. THIRD ROW (Left to Right): Brian Geibel, Mike Clarchick, John McHugh. FOURTH ROW (Left to Right): Joe Young, Jeff Cornuet, Jim McHugh, Paul Kimmel. FIFTH ROW (Left to Right): Brian Cook, Mike Wiethorn, Dave Raffensperger, Dave Volek, Mike Finan.

It is the mixture of a wide variety in personality and different attitudes and life-styles. This is precisely true of

## Fr. Kenny Cox, O.F.M. Cap., Dies

Fr. Kenny Cox, O.F.M. Cap., died suddenly on Monday, April 28 from a massive heart attack. The previous day he had been suffering from some pains but it was thought to be nothing serious.

Fr. Kenny had been a priest



FR. KENNY COX, O.F.M. CAP.

for 32 years, and superior of St. Mary Friary since 1977.

Fr. Kenny was born May 22, 1919, in New Philadelphia, Ohio. In 1936 he entered St. Fidelis Seminary to study for the priesthood. He was or-

dained June 8, 1948, after completing philosophy studies at St. Fidelis Friary, Victoria, Kansas, and theological studies at Capuchin College, Washington, DC.

Until 1965 Father Kenny resided at St. Mary Friary, Herman, serving as seminary teacher and college registrar; pastor of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Cabot (1959-1960), and St. Mary Church, Winfield (1964-1965); and assistant chaplain at Butler Veteran's Administration Medical Center (then Deshon Hospital) from 1963-1965.

He received his MA in classics and education administration from Catholic University, Washington, DC in 1953.

He was a member of the Ancient Order of Hiberians, the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, serving for nine years as chaplain of Butler Council 866; and the International Order of the Alhambra.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Fr. Kenny was held on Thursday, May 1. St. Mary's Church was filled to capacity giving testimony to what a fine priest he had been and the number of people his ministry had touched.

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Herman, PA  
Permit No. 2

THE FIDELIAN  
Herman, Pa. 16039  
Address Correction Requested