

Merrimack College

## Merrimack ScholarWorks

---

Merrimack College Publications

College Publications & Events

---

1997

### Merrimack College: The First Fifty Years, 1947-1957

Robert (Bud) D. Keohan  
*Merrimack College*

Frank J. Leone Jr.  
*Merrimack College*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.merrimack.edu/mc\\_pubs](https://scholarworks.merrimack.edu/mc_pubs)



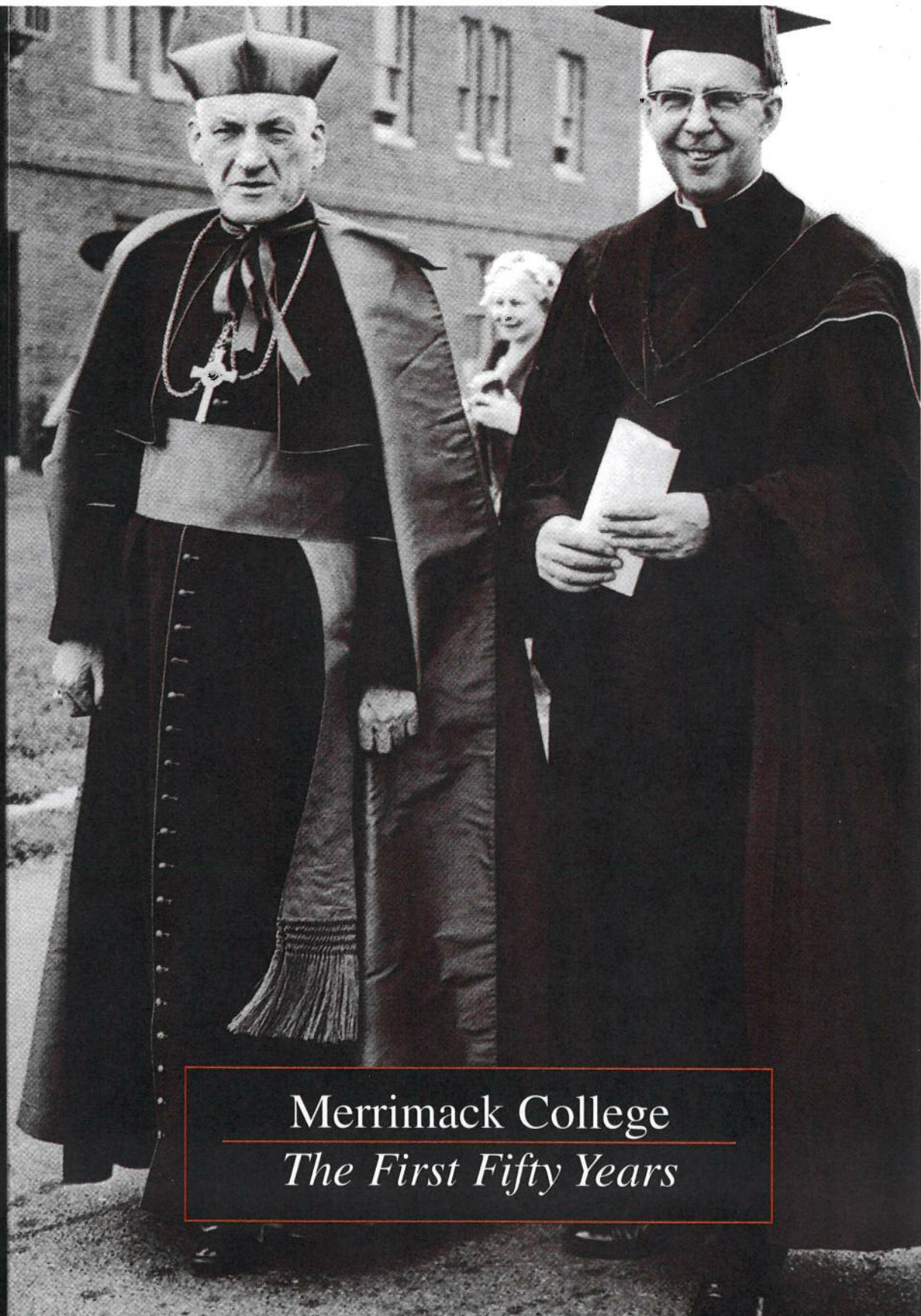
Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Photography Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Keohan, Robert (Bud) D. and Leone, Frank J. Jr., "Merrimack College: The First Fifty Years, 1947-1957" (1997). *Merrimack College Publications*. 5.  
[https://scholarworks.merrimack.edu/mc\\_pubs/5](https://scholarworks.merrimack.edu/mc_pubs/5)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the College Publications & Events at Merrimack ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Merrimack College Publications by an authorized administrator of Merrimack ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@merrimack.edu](mailto:scholarworks@merrimack.edu).



Merrimack College  
*The First Fifty Years*

# Introduction

Writing the text for the photographs in this Fiftieth Anniversary Photo Book was a bitter-sweet experience, very enjoyable in bringing back some happy memories but also making me unhappy that we could not include every Merrimack College photograph ever taken.

I know there are many photographs "out there" perhaps in the attics and trunks of alumni and friends of the College and, if anyone has original photos of campus activities, and is willing to send them to the College Archives (we will have copies made for you if you like), we would dearly appreciate having them. We would also need correct, full identifications of people in the photographs, as well as when they were taken and at what event.

Frank Leone and I hope you will enjoy this book. It brought back memories, even of incidents at which no camera was present, such as Ed Whalley's sparkling 63 to set a course record at Red Hill (now Hillview) Country Club in the first Merrimack College golf event, or of the faculty easily defeating the residents in basketball, both 1953 events.

Robert D. (Bud) Keohan '53

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors wish to thank the following who were of very special aid in putting this book together.

Casey Coburn, Director of Public Relations, editor  
Rev. William Wynne, OSA, the college's first librarian  
Rev. James E. Hannan, OSA, the college's first chaplain  
Prof. James A. McGravey, English professor  
Philip D'Agati '99, archival research  
Patricia G. Coios, Director of Publications, production manager  
Susan Wojtas '79, Director of Alumni Relations, proofreader  
Wendy Darwin Wakeman '93, proofreader  
Margaret Cook, saint

Cover (Photo by Frank Leone): Friends and Founders Archbishop Richard J. Cushing (left) and Rev. Vincent A. McQuade.

## THE TEXT EDITOR

Robert D. (Bud) Keohan '53 returned to the campus in September of 1955, at the request of Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA, to join the English Department. He holds a BS in Business Administration from Merrimack and two master's degrees from Boston University, one in Journalism, the other in English Literature. In September 1997, he will begin his 43rd year of full-time teaching at Merrimack.

He served as Sports Information Director in 1951-52 when he was a junior and in 1967-68, and as Graduate Manager of Athletics in 1953-54 when his greatest coup was getting Boston College on the basketball schedule. Since 1968 he has been associated with his hometown paper, the Wakefield Daily Item.

His older daughter Adele graduated from Merrimack in 1985 with a Sociology degree; she is now an Equity actress after having appeared in innumerable area productions, including six at North Shore Music Theatre. His younger daughter Linda took art classes at Merrimack in the summer before her senior year of high school, which aided her in gaining entrance to Massachusetts College of Art. She received a bachelor's degree in Painting in 1990 and later her master's in 1993 from Notre Dame College in Manchester, N.H. She teaches elementary art in the Woburn school system.

## THE PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

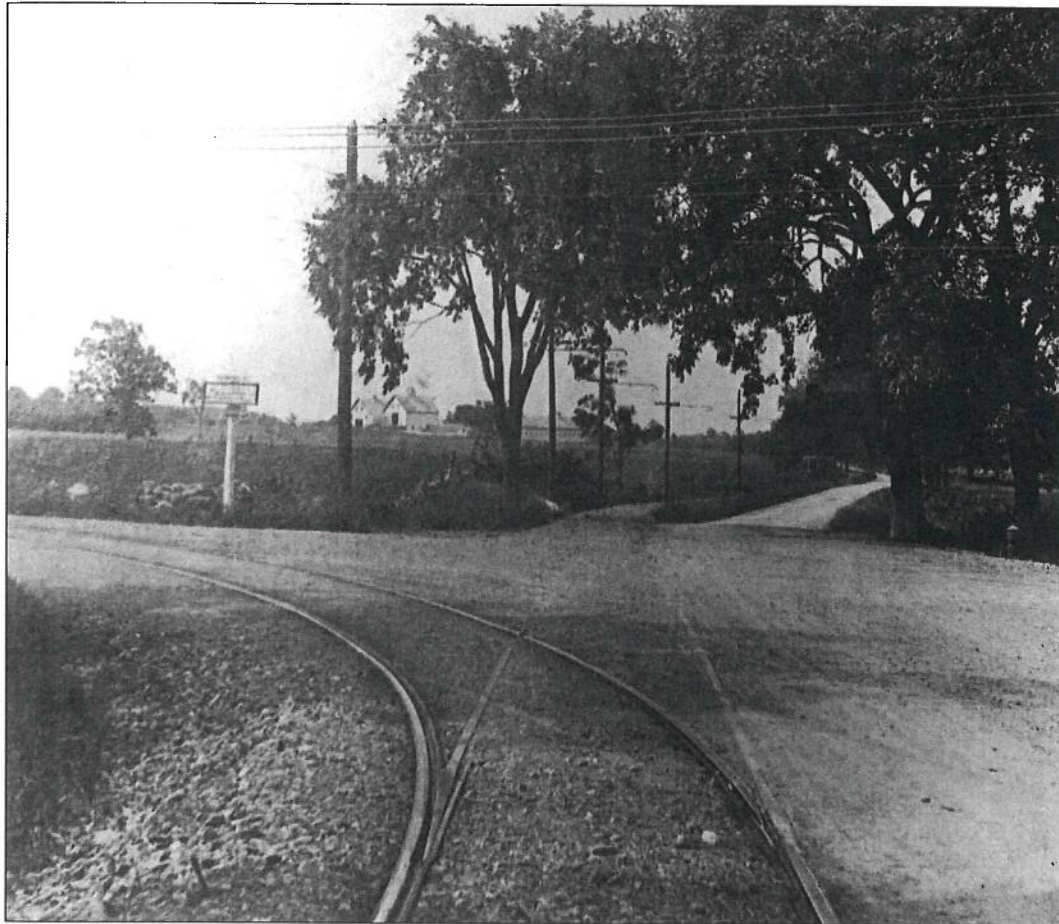
The photography editor of this 50th Anniversary Book is Frank J. Leone Jr., '61 who graduated with a bachelor of science degree in Business Administration. In 1962 he received a master of science degree in retailing from New York University, along with the Bloomingdale Brothers Prize for excellence in retail management policies. While at Merrimack, he was photo editor and photographer for the Warrior newspaper and photo editor and student photographer for the Merrimack yearbook, as well as senior class treasurer. While at Merrimack he was a free-lance news photographer. His pictures were used by many local and regional newspapers and wire services. He still retains membership in the National Press Photographers Association.

The former president of F. J. Leone Furniture Company, he recently retired from the retail business after 35 years to devote his time to his commercial real estate interests and to the numerous charitable organizations he is involved in. He is a member of the President's Council at Merrimack and sits on its executive committee; and is a board member of the Friends of Merrimack College. Frank is also a member of the Board of Directors of First Essex Bancorp, headquartered in Andover, sitting on both the executive and community reinvestment committees. He organized and edited the photographs in the college archives for use in this 50th anniversary book. In fact many photos from the late 1950s and early 1960s in this book were taken by him, as was the 14-picture segment of Founders' Day weekend in October 1996. He lives in North Andover with his wife, Angela, and their two school-age daughters.

## PHOTO CREDITS

(Every photo in this book which had a photographer identification is acknowledged here.)

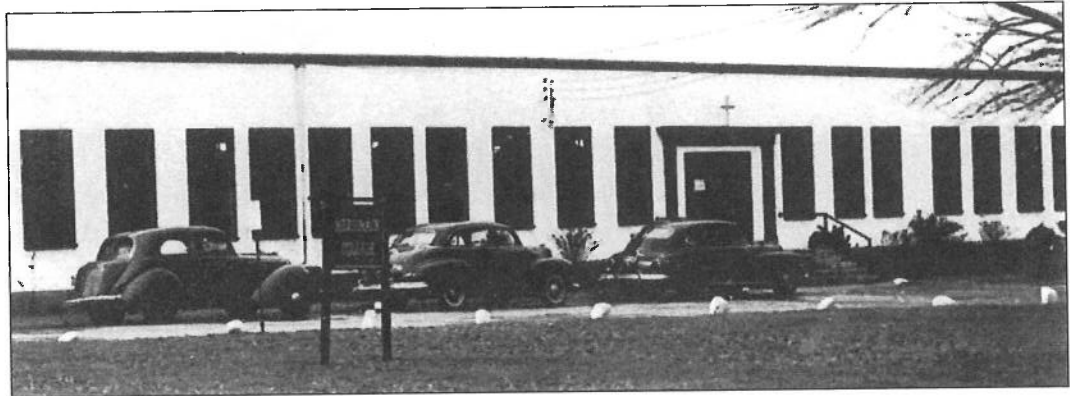
|                           |                               |                       |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rev. James E. Hannan, OSA | St. Linger and McNulty Studio | Collins Photo Service |
| Phillip A. Stack          | Albert Studio                 | Carl Russo            |
| Frank Leone Jr. '61       | Tim Morse                     | Brenda Hajec          |
| Richard Graber            | Al Pereira                    | Foto Felici (Rome)    |
| Cameracraft of Lawrence   | Lilian Kemp Photography       | David Oxtan           |
| Conrad Waldinger          | Wendy Darwin Wakeman '93      | Loring Studios        |



This is Wilson's Corner, North Andover, about 1910, a photo given to Merrimack College President Rev. Vincent A. McQuade by the North Andover Historical Society in June of 1963. Executive Director Bruce Sinclair sent it to Father McQuade at the suggestion of Arnold Salisbury. The background is the Richardson farm which Merrimack bought in 1947. Note the street railway lines, one swinging from present Route 125 into Route 114 to continue south past the present campus, and the other from 125 crossing 114 to head west on Elm Street to Andover Square. Street railways were a rage from their wild expansion in the early and middle 1890s until they began to fade in the 1910s due to motorcars. At one time street railway cars could come north from Boston to the hub town of Wakefield and then branch out west to Stoneham, Woburn and Winchester, northwest to Reading and Lowell, or north to Lawrence and Haverhill and on east down the Merrimack Valley to Newburyport. James McGravey, Merrimack's first Director of Public Relations and an English Department faculty member for 32 years from December 1947 through June 1980, recalls taking, in the mid-1920s, the special street railway car that passed through Wilson's Corner on the way south with students for Essex Agricultural School in Middleton and St. John Preparatory School in Danvers.



Haying at Wilson's Corner on the Richardson farm continued practically until the time Merrimack College bought 70 acres of this property, then owned by the Higgins family of Lawrence, in 1947 for the main campus. Not purchased were the other 30 acres just west of the campus; that land later became a housing development (the utilities and roadways were in but Rev. Vincent McQuade, OSA could not get the Order of St. Augustine, which did not want the college to be land-poor before the first permanent building went up, to add another \$75,000 to its initial gift to the college). This 1944 photo shows Joseph Driscoll of Andover on the hayrake. The same photo was used by the Lawrence Eagle-Tribune to advertise a North Andover Historical Society talk and, in 1972, by Edward G. Roddy Jr. in *Merrimack College: Genesis and Growth, 1947-1972*. The farm had been used as a horse-breeding establishment in its later years, and for years after the acquisition of the property by Merrimack, the outline of its circular race course could be seen.



Merrimack's first classroom building, Guild Hall on the south side of Peters Street (Route 133), was the college's only building during its first two years. Directly across the street from the John Murphy house bought by the Augustinians for their temporary home (Cascia Hall), this one-story, E-shaped cinder-block building called Guild Hall was the temporary home of the college. It had seven classrooms, two laboratories, a small chapel, a very small jam-packed library, an area to eat your brown-bag lunch, and business and administrative offices. Into Guild Hall on Sept. 29, 1947 came 165 freshmen, over 60 percent of them WW2 veterans. The structure on its southern side had an outdoor walkway to relieve congestion in moving between classes. Your older co-editor recalls the early fall of 1949 as a freshman, coming up Peters Street from Shawsheen after arriving on the B&M milk train. First there on cool mornings, even before Cornelius Casey (the one-man janitor/physical plant of Merrimack) would arrive, I would go to the walkway to avoid any cool breezes and a kitten would arrive to keep me company. Later in the fall I would bus to Reading with then-sophomore James Wenzel, who in 1996 celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination in the Augustinian Order, and then be picked up by Bob Webb '52.



Mass at St. Augustine Church in Andover on the occasion of the college's charter. As Roddy points out, "The paper college, in the fall of 1946, had no land, no physical plant, no equipment, no faculty, no organization, and, finally, no charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." Somehow Vincent A. McQuade, an Augustinian since age 13, arrived in January and got the college underway a year early in 1947 to meet the GI Bill demand. When selected for this task (McQuade was named president on Dec. 18, 1946 by the Definitory of the Order of St. Augustine), he was chairman of the Veterans' Bureau at Villanova, which at that time was the only college the Augustinians had in the United States. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts approved the charter of the college, then legally called the Augustinian College of the Merrimack Valley, on March 27, 1947. A week before classes started, on Sept. 22, 1947, the feast of St. Thomas of Villanova, the traditional date for starting classes at Merrimack's sister institution of higher education, Villanova University, a solemn high dedicatory Mass for the new institution was held at St. Augustine Church in downtown Andover, attended by the faculty (eight Augustinians and five members of the laity, including two MDs, made up the original group), the trustees, the students and their families. For the occasion Pope Pius XII sent a cablegram: "Occasion inauguration Merrimack College, Holy Father lovingly imparts rector, professors, students, benefactors, college, paternal apostolic blessings implored." Merrimack originally had planned to open in 1948, as did Stonehill College on the Oliver Ames Estate in North Easton, the other college invited by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing to start out and help educate those WW2 veterans coming to have their chance under the GI Bill to get a college education. Since the Augustinians agreed first to start another college they were given the choice of going north or south of Boston. It was logical to go north because of the Augustinian parishes in Andover and Lawrence, and because of the Haverhill Labor-Management Committee led by J. Leo Cronin, which had consulted with the Archbishop and asked for a college in the Merrimack Valley. The other members of that group were Ellery Atwood, Sidney D. Culliford, Andrew Germain, John H. Gillis, Joseph C. Goyette, Louis Hartman, Edwin Liedich, Francis X. McNamara, Paul Mikonis, Patrick J. Murnane, John J. O'Shea, Arthur H. Ross, Richard L. Walsh, and Stephen J. Wagner.



The first officers of the Fraternity of the Holy Name, selected in the first semester of the college: (seated) Charles W. Flynn, vice president; Rev. James E. Hannan, OSA, moderator and college chaplain; Lawrence J. Morrisroe, president; (standing) Charles F. Gallagher, treasurer; Daniel Breen, secretary.



While the Men of Merrimack and the Ladies of Merrimack were not formally founded until 1952, Rev. James E. Hannan, OSA was laying the groundwork via Family Day. On St. Rita's Day, May 22, he would invite anyone friendly to the college to visit (from the photo all ages were eligible) Guild Hall, handing out red roses to the women and ice cream and cookies to the kids. The two seated closest to the camera are Jim and Irene McGravey. Father Hannan was the first chaplain, professor, and chairman of the Department of Religion. He took a leave of absence to return to the USAF during the Korean War as a chaplain.





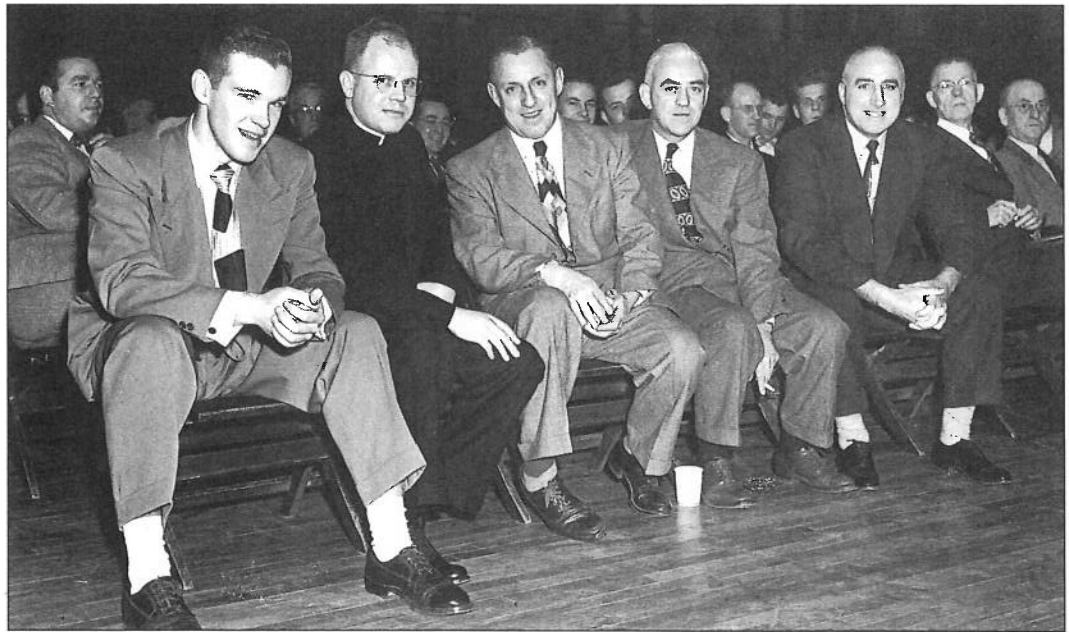
Attendees at Merrimack's first prom, the Freshman Prom, enjoy the evening of May 22, 1948, at the Merrimack Valley Country Club. Since the first three classes arrived before the co-ed period began in 1950, the ladies are all dates or wives. The photo itself is of historic significance as it appeared in the first issue of the Merrimack Warrior in June 1948. The Press Club Bulletin had preceded the Warrior during the first year of the college.



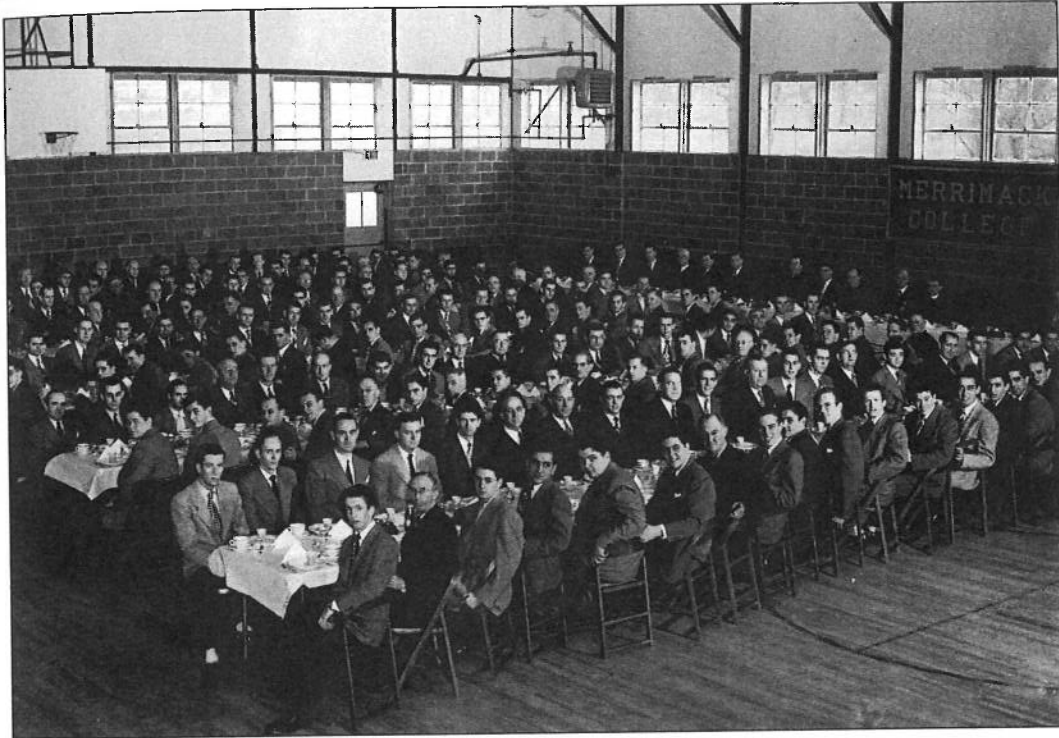
The college operated for two years with only Guild Hall for classrooms, but ground was broken for the science building, the first permanent structure, on Sept. 29, 1948. At the groundbreaking on the former farm south of Elm Street were (left to right) Rev. Francis Smith, OSA, Rev. William J. Wynne, OSA, Rev. Joseph J. Gildea, OSA, Rev. Vincent McQuade, OSA and Rev. James Hannan, OSA. Although it was not completely ready for the college's fifth semester in September, Cushing Hall, which would be the college's science and engineering building until the Mendel Center for Science, Engineering, and Technology, had to be pressed into partial use because of the crowded conditions at Guild Hall in September 1949. Some students had one class in the unfinished new building. In the case of one freshman French class, its odyssey in Cushing began in a first-floor lab in the southwest corner (now the site of Political Science faculty offices) with a very unfinished uneven floor so that every chair tilted (in various directions); that class ended the semester in a third-floor finished lab which was reached by bending down under scaffolding as workmen were setting in the hallway ceiling. Cushing's site is not where the building was supposed to go; it should have been placed approximately where O'Reilly Hall is today as O'Reilly was slated for the present Cushing site, but a site error was made. The building is named for Richard Cardinal Cushing, who had yet to receive the red hat when he pushed for the creation of what became Merrimack.



A Mass in the college gymnasium during the second year of the college's operation. The kneelers the servers are on were made by Rev. William Cullen, OSA, the first athletic director.



Sports Night at the college gymnasium, Dec. 11, 1948. Seated (left to right) Joe Lawlor, Rev. James E. Hannan, OSA, major league baseball umpire Artie Gore, Army-Navy football game official Ray Kennedy, and former Villanova University football player and alumnus Eddie Donahue, then the owner of Andover Country Club.



A Fraternity of the Holy Name Father-Son Communion Breakfast in the gymnasium in March 1949. The head table is to the right rear.

The first capital fund drive was kicked off at a rally at Lawrence Memorial Stadium on Sunday afternoon, May 8, 1949, a beautiful day as seen by this picture and the one on the top of the next page. The Augustinian faculty members at Merrimack, aided by several of their Villanova University colleagues, visited many parishes in the Merrimack Valley that morning to publicize the drive and push for donations. Archbishop Cushing had suggested to Rev. Vincent McQuade, OSA that the drive's goal be set at \$1 million, of which Cushing delivered \$100,000 from the archdiocese, the largest single contributor. On May 8, Archbishop Cushing and Governor Paul Dever were the main speakers at the stadium event. By late summer 7,000 solicitors had brought in 29,000 gifts totaling \$1,190,000. Many older residents, not only of the Valley but the North Shore and the northern suburbs of Boston, liked years later to say they had "bought a brick for Merrimack." Some 90 of the giftgivers gave a total of over \$300,000. In the photo, members of the Knights of Malta form an honor guard for the marchers on the stadium track as Congressman Cornelius Twomey leads the way.





As the Augustinians attending the capital fund drive kickoff rally in the stadium turn toward their seats, the faces of some long-time Merrimack faculty members stand out. Fourth from the right is Rev. William J. Wynne, OSA of Springfield, a Catholic University graduate who was the college's first librarian, who chose Austin Hall for his retirement home and who still gives music lessons (he received a second bachelor's from Newton College of the Sacred Heart in 1958 and his master's from Manhattan in 1961, both in music). In the left-hand line, beginning with the priest holding his program rolled up, are Rev. Arthur B. Maxwell, OSA (English professor until he became Prior in 1955), Rev. Mariano Arconada, OSA (Spanish professor, driven from Spain by the brutalities of the Spanish Civil War, but who finally was able to return from exile to his native country in 1966), Rev. James E. Hannan, OSA, another New Englander (Chaplain from 1947-51 and 1953-56), and Rev. Edward J. Burns, OSA, who held a doctorate in economics and headed the original business administration program at Merrimack, serving the college until 1969. It was Father Burns who went from great sadness to unbridled joy in the spring of 1953. He had decided to test the fledgling business administration program by having all of the 1953 business graduates take the Graduate Record Examination in economics as a check. When Princeton sent the results, he was appalled at how low the grades were in comparison to target schools. A week or so later Princeton informed Father Burns that the scores originally sent were all incorrect. Instead, that third class of business graduates had run up scores that proved the Burns program was soundly based, topping the scores of graduates from older, and at that time, far more prestigious colleges.



As soon as the college got underway, Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA wanted some type of activity for the students but there was not yet even the Quonset Hut gym as a facility, just Guild Hall. Rev. William Wynne, OSA, put together a Glee Club as Merrimack's first formal activity. The photograph is clearly from the third year of the college, 1949-50, as members of each of the first three classes can be seen in the photo. Joseph Orlando, an accomplished pianist who sometimes played duets with Father Wynne, was the accompanist as he was for all four years he was a student.



According to the Roddy history of the college's first 25 years, the Augustinians really wanted to run an all-male college although the Summer School, which started in June 1948, and the Evening Division, which started in September of that year, both took in women from the very beginning without hesitation. Archbishop Cushing, at even his first meeting with Rev. Vincent McQuade, OSA, had stressed the need for Merrimack to be co-ed but it was evident the Augustinians wanted to delay that change as long as possible. On June 16, 1950, Archbishop Cushing, who had pledged \$200,000, \$50,000 a year over four years, commended Father McQuade on the fact he was going to start on additional buildings (Sullivan, 1951, and Austin, 1952), but concluded "Apropos co-education, if you think it is too much of a problem forget about it and I will get the Sisters of St. Anne's College in Marlboro to consider the possibility of starting a college of their own in that area. On the other hand, if you are in favor of co-education, proceed immediately." This letter and the outbreak of the Korean War, which would affect enrollment, apparently influenced the order. In the late summer of 1950 Father McQuade told Archbishop Cushing that the summer chapter meeting of the Augustinians had looked with favor on the change, meaning at a later date. On the way home from his meeting with Archbishop Cushing, Father McQuade was with J. Leo Cronin, one of the original Haverhill Labor-Management Group which had lobbied for a north-of-Boston college to serve the Merrimack Valley. Father McQuade was stunned to hear on the car radio that Archbishop Cushing had just announced the college was going co-ed in September, so stunned that he turned the radio off. But somehow things were put together quickly for the change. On the opening day of the three-day retreat that marked the beginning of the 1950-51 college year the male population, waiting patiently for Mass to start, was stunned to see nine young women march down to the front-row seats (there were 11 in the class but as the photo shows only nine were present that first day). In the photo the two priests on the left are Rev. Joseph J. Gildea, OSA, the college's first dean, (PhD, Pennsylvania '46, in French), and Rev. Stephen J. Lanen, OSA, the retreat master, while the two on the right are Rev. James E. Hannan, OSA, the college chaplain at that time, and Father McQuade. The four women, "girls" then to most of the campus, in the front (left to right) were Antoinette J. (Mazzaglia) Beauchesne, Barbara A. (Coughlin) Cubeta, Catherine Carolyn (Cullen) Griffen, and Margaret M. (Hickey) Patnaude, while in the back row (left to right) are Helen M. (Toohig) Mueller (partly obscured in the photo), Patricia A. (Hart) O'Donnell, Grace Delamare, Loretta (Konopacka) White (out of Father Hannan's home parish of St. Patrick, Stoneham), and Estelle T. Bernardin.



With many older students, i.e., the WW2 veterans on campus, the chaplain, Rev. James Hannan, OSA, realized the need for some special organizations. One was the Cana Society for married students. Pictured at the Cana Society Family Day of May 23, 1950 were the officers (left to right with Father Hannan in the middle) George Enright, John Sheehan, Thomas Murray, and Paul Lanni, with their wives and children seated in front. Lanni, as a freshman, coached Merrimack's first varsity athletic team, the basketball squad, to a 7-2 mark in 1950 before the college sought out Larry Cicero, head coach at Malvern Prep near Philadelphia, to take over. Lanni after graduation in 1953 returned as a civilian to Fort Devens and directed the athletic programs there for many years. He was widely known in the Groton area.



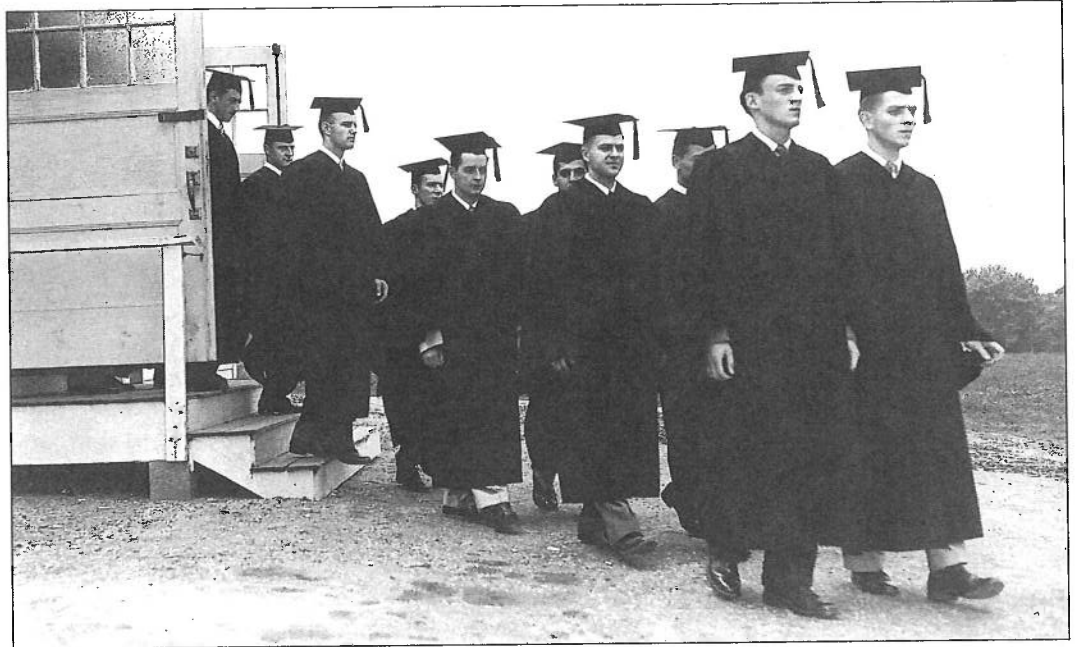
The first class to go forth from Merrimack heads up the road from Guild Hall toward Baccalaureate ceremonies in the gym.



Merrimack's first Baccalaureate service begins as the celebrants of the Mass enter, Rev. Edward J. Burns, OSA, Rev. Joseph J. Gildea, OSA, and Rev. Vincent McQuade, OSA in order. Raymond E. Alie and Joseph F. McCormack are second and third from the left; and Lawrence P. Morrisroe and William T. Mullen are the last two in the row. Identifications of the two identified people would be appreciated.



Unlike a modern Merrimack Baccalaureate where many give out Communion, only Rev. Vincent McQuade, OSA did so at the first one in the gymnasium in June of 1951.



The Class of 1951 leaves the gymnasium's north door after the first Baccalaureate. Nearest the camera is yearbook editor David F. Walsh Jr.



The first graduation of the college was held outdoors on Sunday, June 3, 1951, between Cushing Hall and then-under-construction Sullivan Hall. Note Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA in the lower left of the photo personally handing out the diplomas to the initial class, men who chose to grow intellectually with a brand new college.

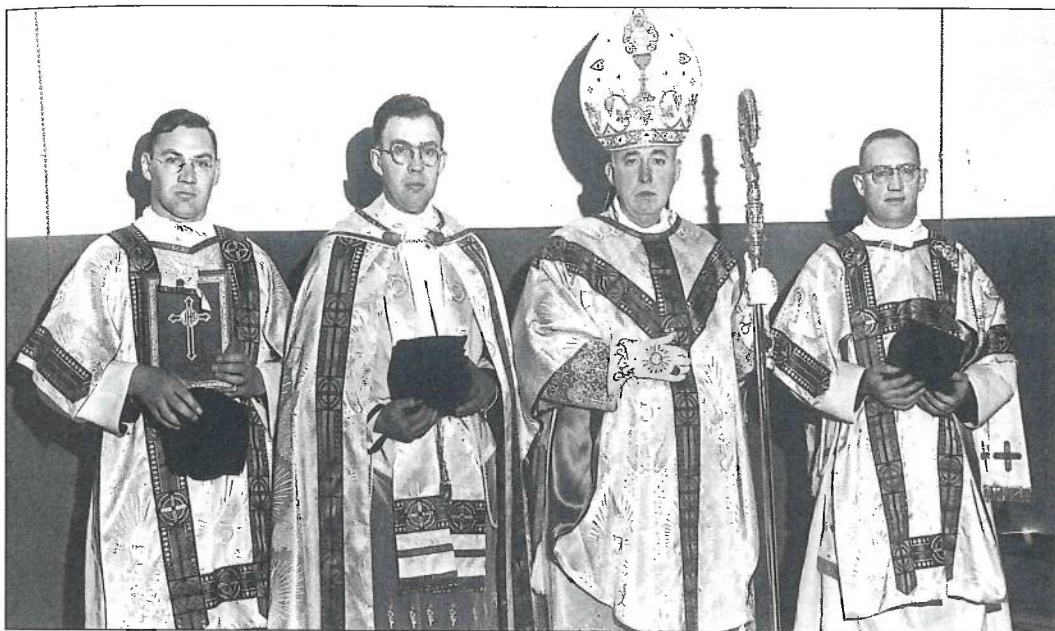




Posing at the first commencement next to Cushing Hall were (left to right) Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA, president of the college; Very Rev. Joseph M. Dougherty, OSA, the Augustinian provincial and president of the college's board of trustees, who delivered the Address of Welcome; His Excellency the Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing, Archbishop of Boston; Paul A. Dever, Governor of Massachusetts; and Most Rev. Thomas F. Markham, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston, who pronounced the Invocation. Father McQuade conferred the college's first two honorary degrees on Archbishop (later Cardinal) Cushing and Governor Dever.



Students, some wearing freshman beanies, cross the Quadrangle from Sullivan Hall, the second permanent building on the campus, finished in time for the fall 1951 classes, toward Cushing Hall. Sullivan not only gave the college more badly needed classrooms but also let the Biology Department have free rein on the third floor.



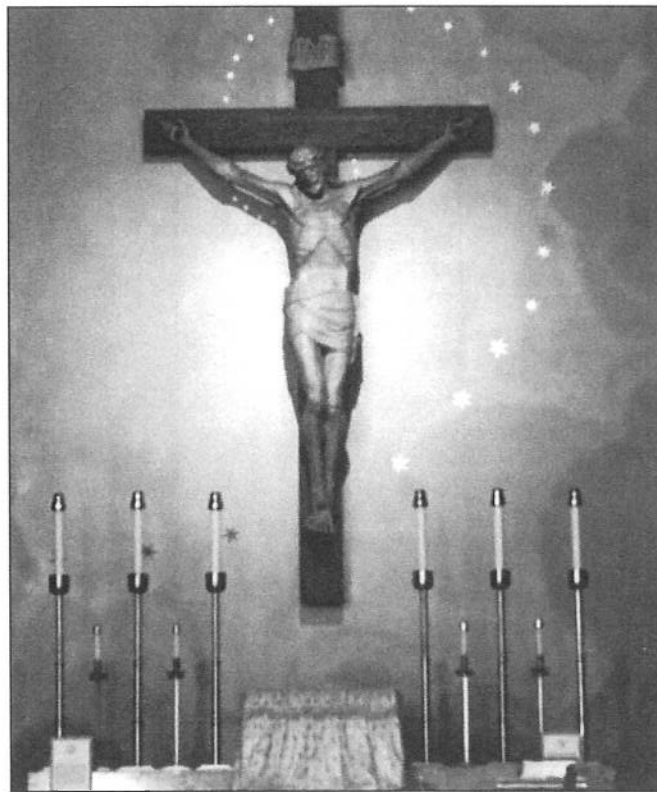
Vested for Mass at the gym: Rev. Edward J. Burns, OSA, Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA, Bishop Thomas F. Markham, Rev. Joseph J. Gildea, OSA.



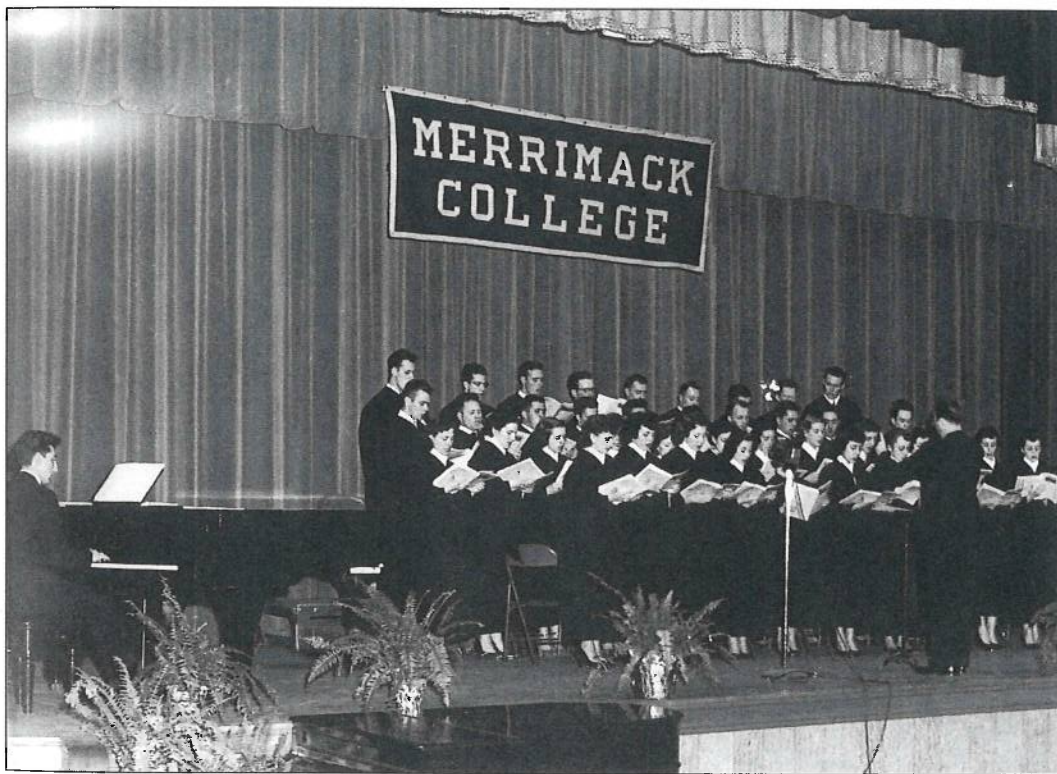
A faculty reception, something Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA felt was important to mold the faculty together as a family. In the photo: the John Warrens are on the left, Rev. James E. Hannan, OSA, Rev. William Cullen, OSA, the McGraveys and the Frizzells.



A donation: Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA, Archbishop Richard Cushing, Gov. Paul Dever, Judge John Fenton Sr.



The altar in the Austin Hall Chapel, 1952.



After Merrimack became co-ed in 1950 the Glee Club was shifted into a Choral Society. Under the direction of Rev. William Wynne, OSA, the group helped put the name of Merrimack in areas beyond the Merrimack Valley. This photo of the 40-voice group is from a concert at the Thornton Jenkins Auditorium in Malden in 1952. Joseph Orlando is the accompanist.



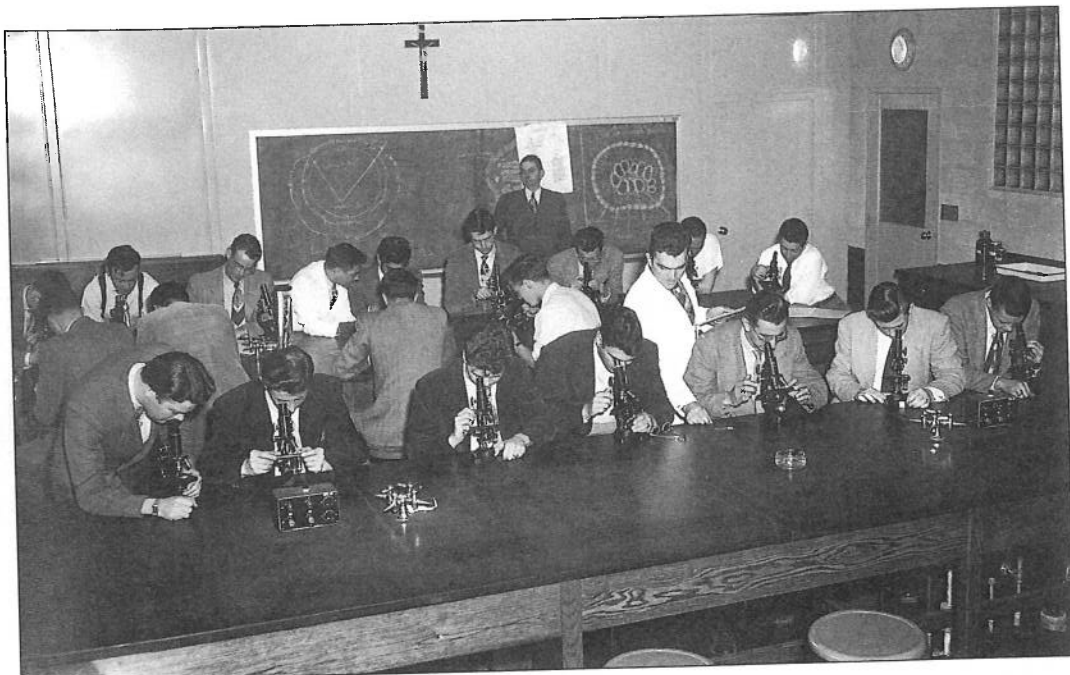
Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA speaks to a group at an evening session.



McDonald Award winners for a Government Internship Program in March 1955. Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA and Political Science Professor James J. St. Germain flank Jeanne L. Rourke. In the rear, starting with the second person in, are James A. Mulligan and David F. Sullivan Jr. (Identification of the person on the left would be appreciated.) Mulligan, a Navy pilot, spent 5 1/2 years in the so-called "Hanoi Hilton" prison camp after being shot down during the Vietnam War. After returning home to his family in Virginia, one of the first places he came to visit was his alma mater to speak to the students about his experiences. The only way the captured pilots could communicate with one another was through tapping on the walls of their solitary cells.



One of Rev. Thomas Walsh, OSA's Ski Club trips, this one on the slopes of Mount Cranmore in the White Mountains, either the 1954-55 or 55-56 season.



Students becoming familiar with microscopes.

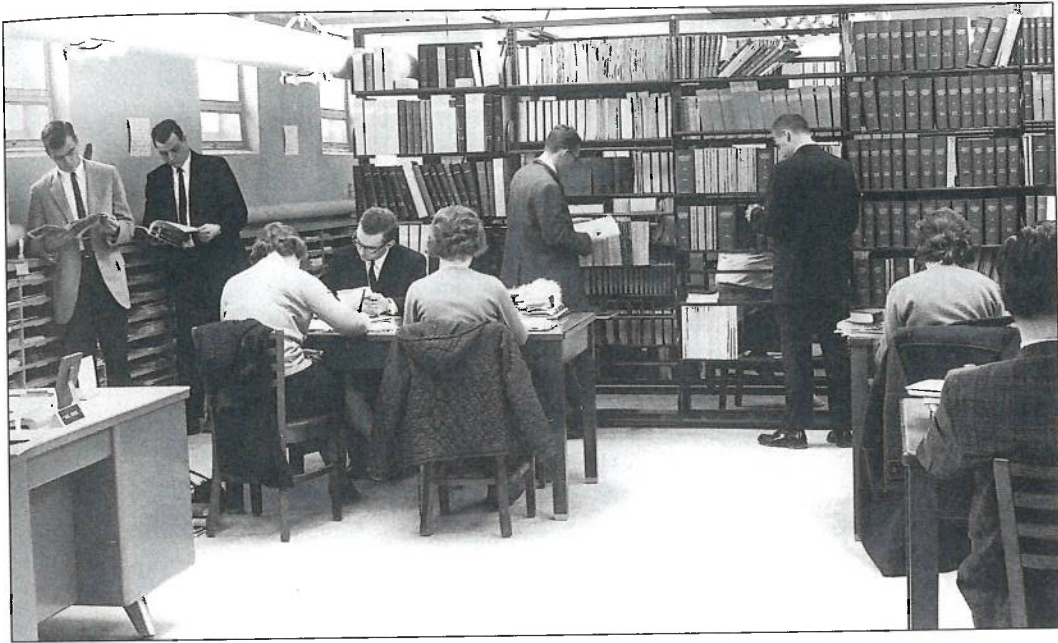


A minstrel show in April 1956 featured eight young women doing a kick dance to the tune of "Hey Daddy, I Want A Diamond Ring." Catherine (Catalano) DeBurro photographed the other seven: (front row) Dorothy (Daignault) Sanville, Rachel Dampousse, Joan Valleri, and Nina (Santagati) MacDonald, sister of the current college president, Richard J. Santagati; (back row) Ann Carter, Lorraine (Desroches) Wysocki, and Nelli Bettis.



A faculty dinner. Rev. Joseph Murray, OSA is in the center, Anna Radzukinas on the far left.





After the construction of Tagastan (now Gildea) Hall, the library, which had been in the east end of the Austin Hall basement, was moved to less crowded conditions in the Tagastan basement, a major improvement and the last move before the construction of the McQuade Library.



Some of the local members of the Board of Trustees, which remained all-Augustinian until 1963, pose for the 1958 Merrimack: faculty member Thomas F. Walsh, St. Augustine (Lawrence) Pastor Paul M. Judson, President Vincent A. McQuade, Augustinian Provincial and Chairman of the Board Henry E. Greenlee, St. Mary (Lawrence) Pastor Edward J. Carney, and St. Augustine (Andover) Pastor Henry B. Smith.

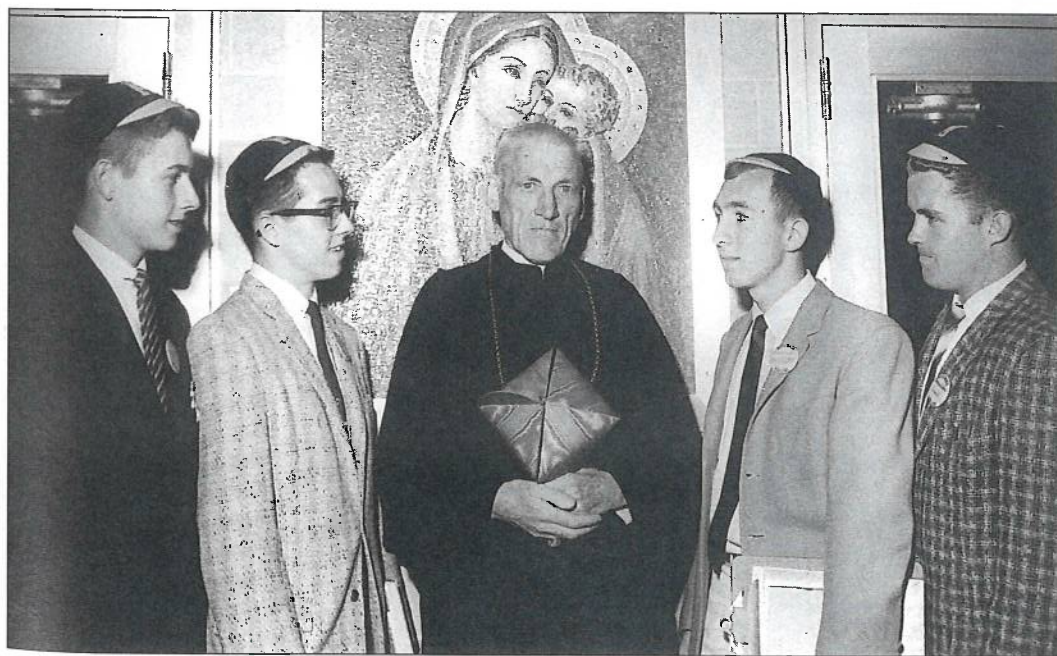


The On-Stagers ready themselves for their presentation of *Laura* in the basement auditorium of the collegiate church in November 1958. In this publicity photo by Frank Leone, taken for the Eagle-Tribune, Rev. Joseph Flaherty, OSA, the Harvard PhD who chaired the English Department and spent nearly all of his career at Merrimack, except for a short stint as president of Villanova University, listens as the play director, Rev. Francis X. Smith, OSA, tells his cast how to go about a scene. Seated or kneeling (left to right) are Dave Beaulieu (Mark McPherson), Martha Roberts (Laura Hunt), Denise Christian (Bessie Clary), Mary Flynn, and John Wotjkun (Danny Dorgan). Others in the cast not in this PR photo included Junior Davis Cupper and Warrior #1 netman Jose Fueyo y Molina (a Cuban native who, after the Castro takeover on New Year's Day 1960, would become an exile and be given a Merrimack tennis scholarship), as Jose Gonzales, Hugh Feehan as Waldo Lydecker, Judy Pinnell as Mrs. Dorgan, and Larry Doucette as Olsen.



Merrimack College Young Democrats meet Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy and his wife, Jacqueline, at the Andover Memorial Auditorium.

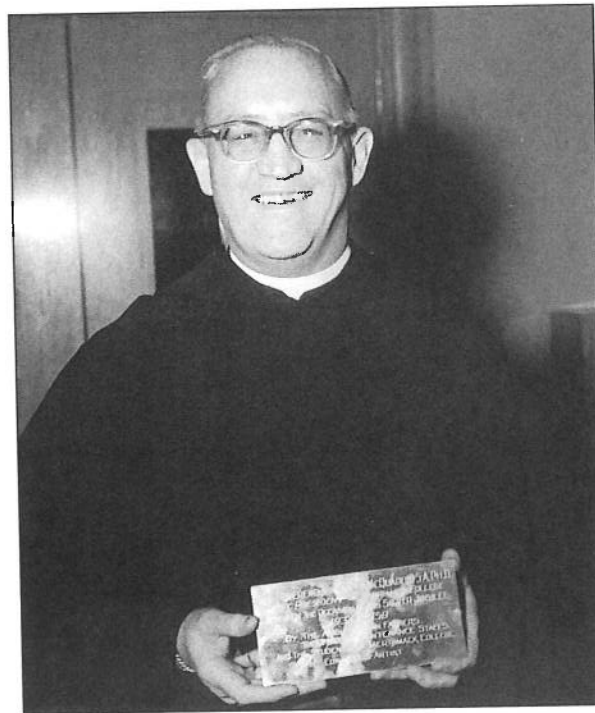
A tug of war is underway during the 1959 Sports Day. The field is the one still open west of Austin Hall, bordered by Rock Ridge Road off Elm Street and the private homes on that street.



Tagastan Hall (now Gildea Hall) was dedicated in 1959. Richard Cardinal Cushing was once again present at one of his favorite institutions. At this time the Order of St. Augustine named Cushing an honorary Augustinian and presented him with the Augustinian habit he wears in the photo. With him are four Merrimack freshmen.



During 1959 Class Day hockey goaltender Dick Bresette still has a patch near his right eye, but the attention of Janet Small (left) and Nancy Zamarra seems to have made him feel happier.



A beaming Rev. Joseph Gildea, OSA, vice president of the college, holds a plaque to be placed under a portrait of Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA, commissioned in honor of the college president's silver jubilee as a priest (1934-59). The painting for this occasion now hangs in the second-floor foyer in Austin Hall.



By the spring of 1956 Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA was having trouble getting permission from his Augustinian superiors to buy another seventy acres for the campus, so he persuaded Archbishop Cushing to help. With Archbishop Cushing visiting on May 2 to inspire a Merrimack fundraising drive, Father McQuade convinced him to write a letter stating it was an error not purchasing the land from Rock Ridge Road to the bend in Elm Street where a housing development was now in the final stages of construction. The Cushing letter was clearly to be used as a reminder that the new land, a rather battered farm pictured above, should be purchased.

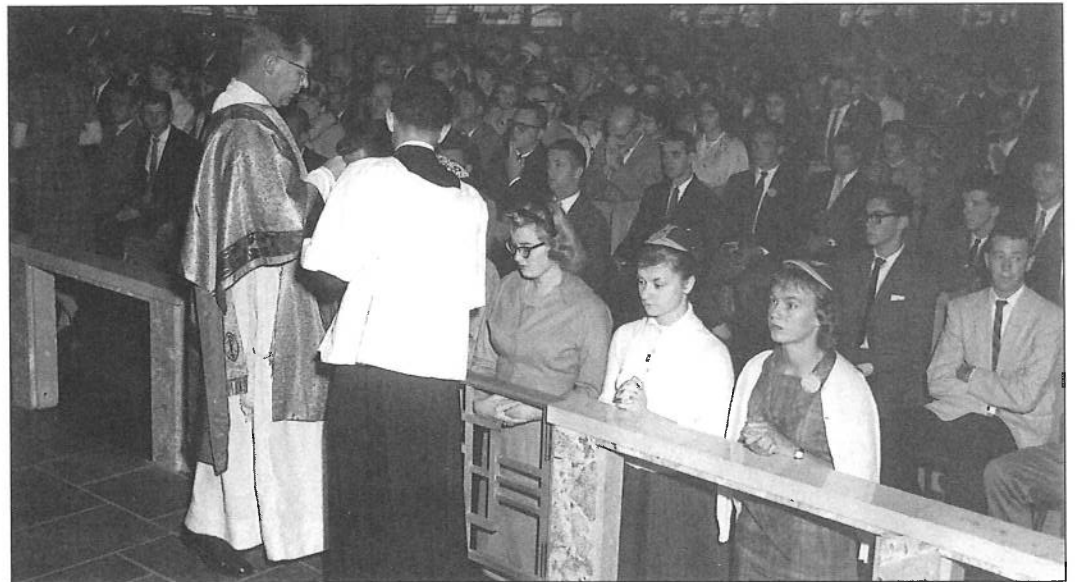
Archbishop Cushing did as asked, writing "On the occasion of my recent visit in behalf of the Drive for Merrimack College, I was terribly disappointed by the environment around the College Campus. A grave mistake was made in not purchasing more land. Now you are surrounded with a lot of small houses in a crowded area that make an unsightly picture. I understand that adjoining this particular development and bordering on your boundary is another tract of land embracing some seventy acres. If you have any vision at all with regard to the future of Merrimack, this land should be purchased if for no other reason than to protect the present investment. I hope and pray your Superiors will give you the necessary permission to proceed with the acquisition of this additional property."

Accompanying this letter is a second letter from Cushing to McQuade, which concludes, "I hope the enclosed letter is satisfactory." Other than that, however, the second letter shows Cushing has problems in that the media attention in the Merrimack Valley "hurts me very, very much in the Greater Boston area." He tells Father McQuade, "you must remember that every college and practically every institution around here is looking for money." After noting that he thinks he will stay away until another building is to be dedicated, Archbishop Cushing notes, "I just cannot function with the kind of publicity I get in your area. It may look wonderful in print but it certainly is a terrible obstacle to my work and I am already beginning to feel it. People around here are wondering why they should be giving to a college they will never see. Other colleges serving the people in this area cannot understand why they are not receiving aid. It is especially true of women's colleges."

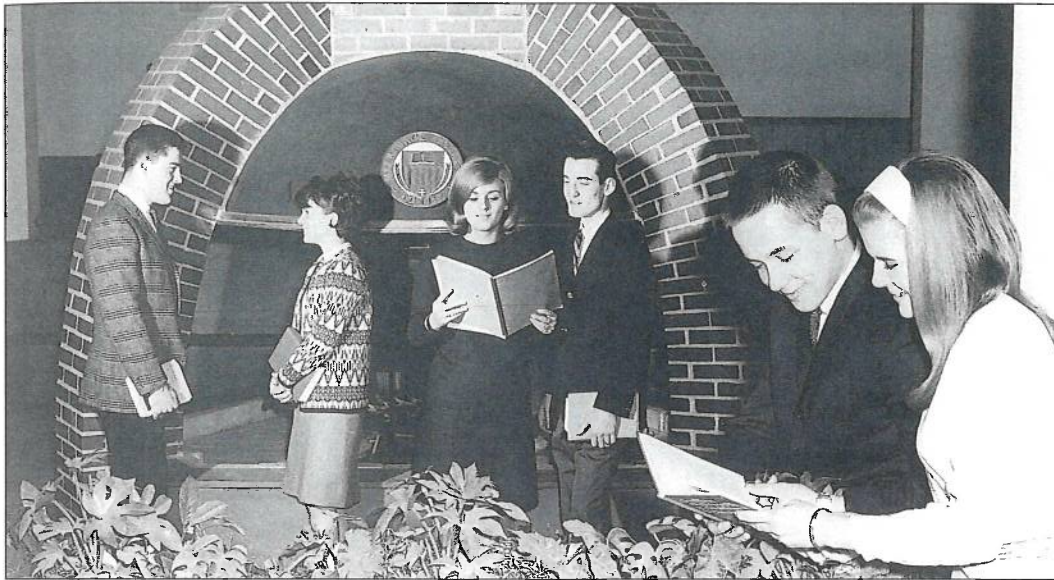
Eventually the Farnsworth chicken farm was bought for land for student residences. Monican Hall and the student apartments were later built on this property.



Republican Congressman Bradford Morse, who eventually resigned his seat to take a post with the United Nations, visits one of Professor James St. Germain's political science seminars. St. Germain, a long-time supporter of John F. Kennedy, believed in giving his students as much practical experience as possible, whether by taking them as observers to the Andover town meeting or by escorting them to a session of the Canadian parliament in Ottawa during a college break.



Rev. Joseph Murray, OSA, the Dean of Men and a French literature scholar, distributes Communion at a weekly Friday morning Mass in 1960 to start the college day. The student in the center of the picture, wearing glasses, is Mary Flynn.



The new residence halls, Monican and Austin (later Ash), had identical foyers when opened in 1960.



This photo, taken February 1, 1961, shows the northern wing of what is now called Ash Centre. This is the wing closest to the classroom buildings, the first to be constructed on Building B, which for years bore the name Austin (the same as the priests' residence and administration building). The Building A residence has since its dedication been called Monican, after St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo in North Africa, for whom the Order of St. Augustine is named. Originally Austin was for male students, Monican for female residents. The buildings are in the Georgian Colonial style as are the other early buildings. When the additional two wings were later added, the buildings took a Y shape.



A secretarial science class is shown at work in 1961. For a time Merrimack offered both a four-year bachelor's degree and a two-year certificate in this field. Since then the typewriter has practically disappeared in favor of personal computers.



The Class of 1961 celebrating.

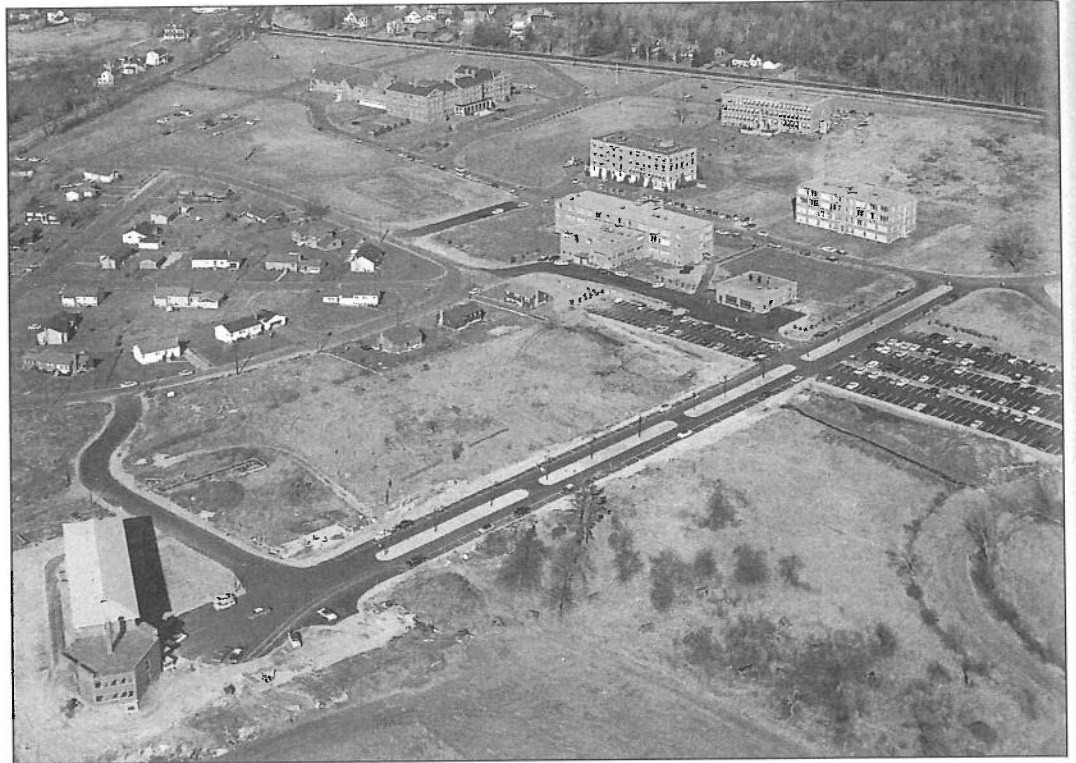




A 1961 photo from the Sullivan cafeteria.

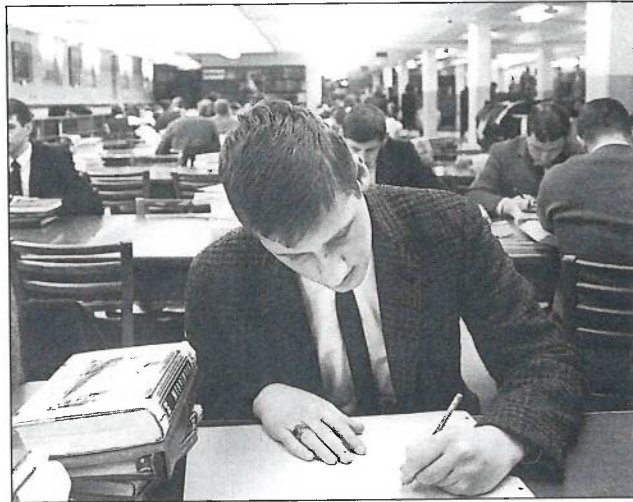


Rev. Thomas F. Walsh, OSA beams as he leads his chorale in rehearsal in the early '60s.



An aerial photo from 1962 shows the expanding campus still lacks trees, even though Rev. William Cullen, OSA had tried to get some going on the Route 114 side of Sullivan. On the academic segment of the campus only two show, one at the northwest corner of Sullivan (a tree long-since gone) and the other next to the roadway coming in from the right of the photo. Wilson's Corner is upper left in the photo where Route 125, after joining with Route 114 to form the eastern boundary of the campus, spins off to the northeast toward Haverhill. The Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher (believed to be the only church in the world with that name) and Austin Hall, the combination administration building and monastery (now only the top floor is used as living quarters by the Augustinians) are to the upper left and the three classroom buildings, Cushing, Sullivan, and the new O'Reilly to the right. Across what later will become the plaza is Tagastan Hall (now Gildea Hall), the student union building. The small house nearest to Tagastan became the Fox Hall infirmary in January 1958. In the lower left of the photo is the central core and the first wing of Monican; the similar area of Austin Center is off the photo to the right of the parking lot. The first block of four tennis courts is off the lower right end of the photo.

The heavily used Tagastan Hall basement library in 1962, next in line to be upgraded to a major building after Monican and Austin were finished.

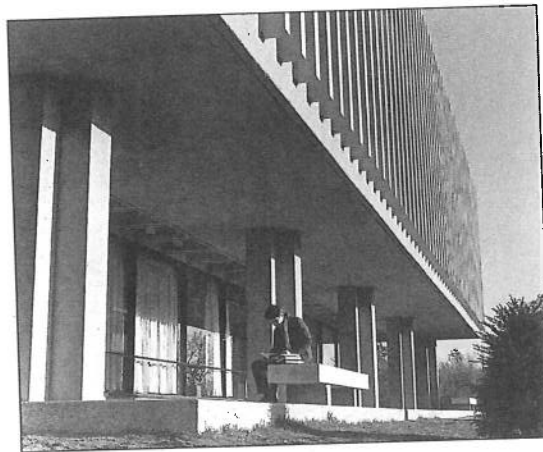


Groundbreaking for the library. Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA breaks ground in the spring of 1966 for the building which later rightly will be named for him as the college's founder. Directly under the left side of the Cushing entrance in the photo is political science professor James J. St. Germain. Just left of St. Germain is Atty. Simeon LeGendre, who taught business law. In the first few years of the college, LeGendre taught in more fields than any other faculty member, including languages and American government courses when necessary, and even aided seniors in placement.



Engineering students practice breaking ground after the official ceremony for the library is over.

The basement floor of the McQuade Library, which today includes the auditorium, media center, and television studio, is on the way in this photo, taken August 1, 1966.



The finished McQuade Library, a photo taken from the side nearest O'Reilly.



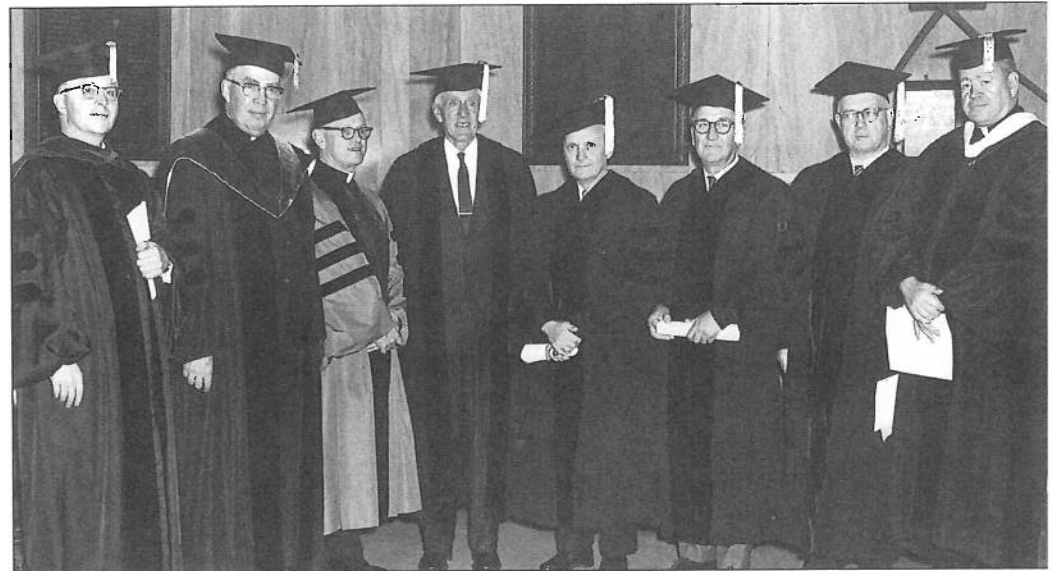
Rev. Thomas F. Walsh, OSA, (far left, front row) had two passions, music and skiing. Here in an undated photo is his Chorale. Father Walsh and earlier Rev. William Wynne, OSA were both instrumental in developing the college's fine arts in the early years.



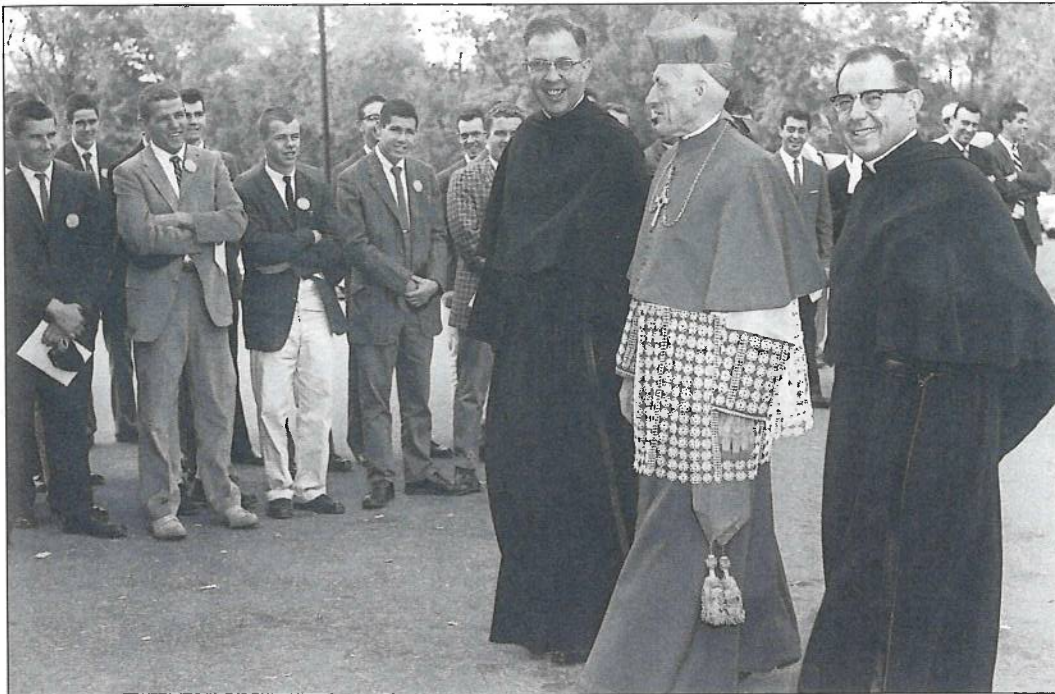
The townhouses are up, each segment having a different design and being named after a Merrimack Valley community.



After the completion of the McQuade Library the Baccalaureate Mass, weather permitting (which it nearly always did), became an even more beautiful event on the grassy area southeast of the library and straight south of Sullivan Hall. This appears to be the procession at the end of the Mass. After the construction of the Mendel Center for Science, Engineering and Technology, the Baccalaureate Mass site became the Plaza in front of Gildea (formerly Tagastan) Hall.

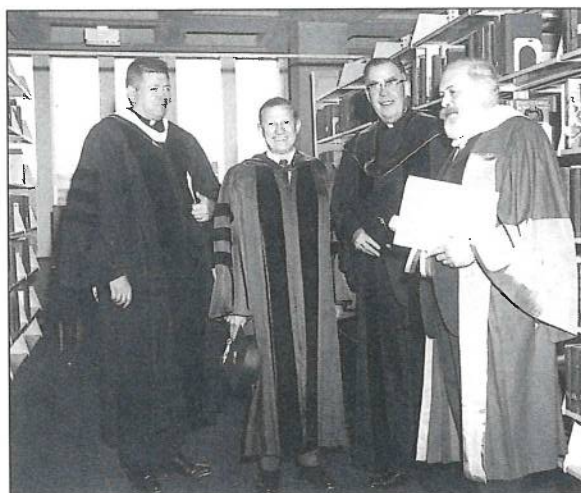


The 1967 Commencement (left to right): Very Rev. James G. Sherman, OSA, the Augustinian Provincial; Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA, PhD, president of Merrimack College; Very Rev. Joseph Flaherty, OSA, PhD, president of Villanova University, recipient of an honorary Doctor of Literature degree; The Honorable Leverett Saltonstall, US Senator from Massachusetts, honorary Doctor of Laws degree; Robert F. Ott, Commissioner of Public Welfare for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, honorary Doctor of Social Science degree; Walter V. Demers, Lawrence businessman, honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degree; William A. Doherty, Andover businessman and School Committeeman, honorary Doctor of Education degree; Rev. John R. Aherne, OSA, LittD, Vice President and Dean of the College.



Cardinal Cushing loved to visit the campus. A beloved figure in the Archdiocese, he had a warm heart for his flock. For a number of years he showed up at least once on a class day and announced at the end of a stirring talk that included references to the evils of the day (often at that time referring to Communism as the main evil) that classes would be canceled the next day. There was enough discomobulation in the faculty ranks because of this that several years later Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA was able to get the Cardinal to agree to allow the faculty to decide after the visit what day the Cardinal's Holiday would be. In the photo the priest on the far right is Rev. John Klekotka, OSA, a former president of Villanova, who came to Merrimack to see his good friend Rev. Joseph Flaherty, at this point the Villanova president, receive an honorary degree. Within a few years Father Flaherty was back at Merrimack, where he was happiest in the classroom.

The McQuade Library was dedicated April 26, 1968. Pictured upstairs in the stacks are then-President Rev. John R. Aherne, OSA, Governor John Volpe, Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA, and Walter Muir Whitehill, PhD, LittD of North Andover, who gave a brilliant talk on the importance of books and of libraries. Whitehill for years was director-librarian of the Boston Atheneum. Later thousands of valuable books were donated to the library by Whitehill's widow in his name.





The General Electric College Bowl appearance on NBC of David DeFillippo (Economics) of Lawrence, Capt. Gerald Murphy (Chemistry) of Haverhill, Joan Warchol (English) of Haverhill, and Michael J. Rossi (English) of East Longmeadow in their senior year of 1969-70 ignited the campus. Dozens of students tried out for the event and faculty coaches headed by English Professor Catherine A. Murphy prepared the squad. The team won four straight games in late 1969 before being tripped up in their fifth and last appearance, taped on the same weekend as the fourth victory. The victories came over Pacific Lutheran of Parkland, Washington, 195-125, California State at Fullerton 240-155, St. Mary of the Woods of Terre Haute, Indiana, 195-160, and St. Lawrence University of Canton, New York 250-150 on Dec. 20. In what was Merrimack's final match (five wins led to retirement anyway) on Dec. 21, the University of Arkansas won 290-175. Dr. Michael Rossi now is a tenured member of the English Department and Dr. Joan Warchol Rossi has given many Shakespeare courses in the Division of Continuing Education. DeFillippo (the name was misspelled on television) is Director of Guidance at Lawrence Central Catholic and Dr. Murphy Director of Research for a Tarrytown, N.Y. firm. The alternates ready in case of illness were senior Nancy Dulskis (Civil Engineering) of Waterbury, Conn.; senior James Connolly (Biology) of Woburn, Mass. and junior Sheila McGarr (History) of Beverly, Mass.





The 25th anniversary of Merrimack was celebrated in part by a visit to the State House and the signing of a proclamation by Governor John Volpe. In the photo (left to right): Professor Simeon LeGendre, Rev. Robert Wesson, OSA, Professor Thomas Hogan, Reo Hamel, Stan Williams, Thomas Roche, Philip Costello (librarian 1965-78), Maureen Sullivan, Patricia Scully, Dean of Women Virginia G. O'Neil, Rev. William Murray, OSA, Rev. Vincent A. McQuade, OSA, Luke Gilmore, Rev. Ezra Fenton, OSA, Professor William Garrett, Professor Joseph Harrington, Professor William Bell, Congressman Thomas Lane, Charles Menary, and Professor Joseph Pavelcak.



A springtime barbecue in 1974.



The Political Science Department in 1974 (left to right): James J. St. Germain, Marguerite P. Kane (who later gained even more practical experience for her students by gaining a seat as a Lawrence City Councilor and an Essex County Commissioner), Mary M. Grow, Sean A. Kelleher, and William W. Bingham.



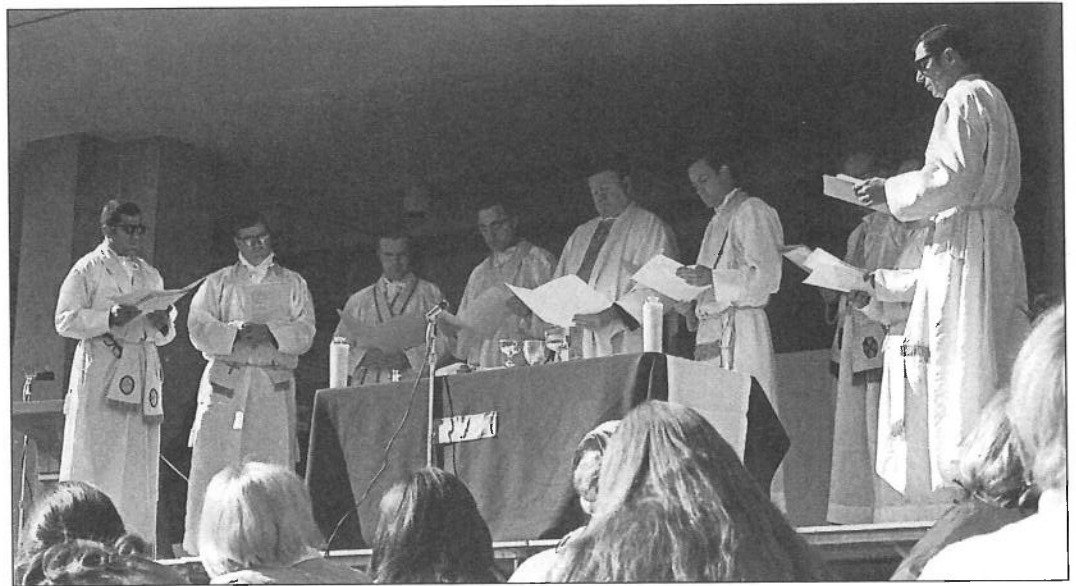
The Mathematics Department, pictured in the Arundel Room of the McQuade Library, in 1974 (left to right): Rev. Joseph A. Kemme, OSA, Ennis J. Montella ("retired" but who still teaches courses for Continuing Education), Donald A. Kearns, Raymond E. Ozimkoski, the late beloved John W. Royal, Ralph W. Leighton, and Lawrence A. Dysart Jr.



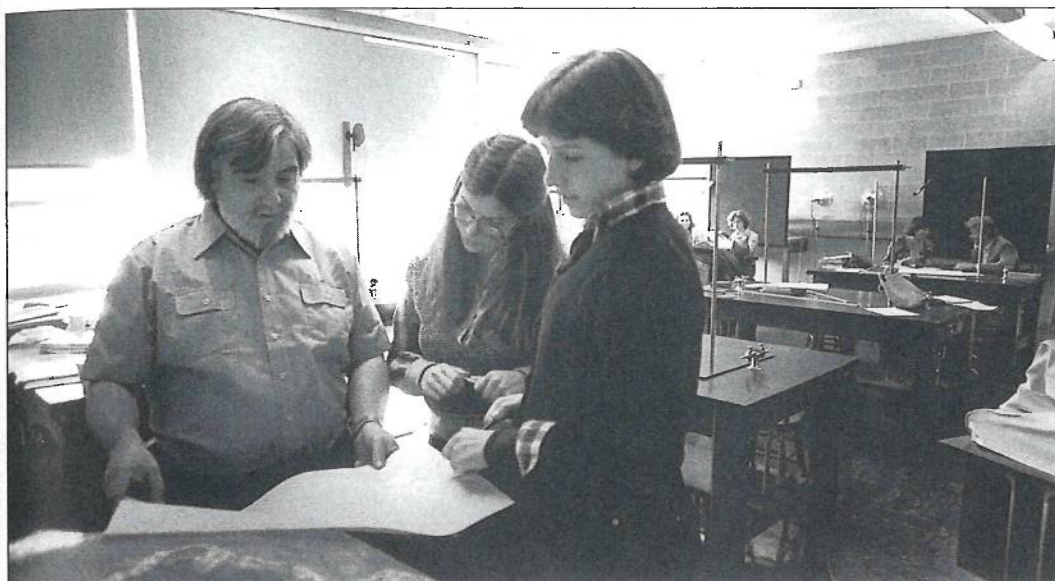
The Engineering Department (since split into Civil and Electrical) in 1974 (left to right): Chester W. Stanhope, Paul J. Milne, Vincent S. Turano (now not only the Civil Engineering head but also an environmental lawyer), Ralph P. Parrotta, William R. Garrett Jr. (obscured in rear, at this time also assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs), Francis E. Griggs Jr. (later in his career Vice President for Academic Affairs), Anthony J. DeLuzio, and Werner N. Grune.



Communion at the 1974 Baccalaureate Mass.



Both the second and third presidents of Merrimack College are among the priests celebrating this outdoor Mass. Rev. John R. Aherne, OSA is in the center with Rev. John A. Coughlan, OSA, in 1974 Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the college, just to the left of Father Aherne in the photo.

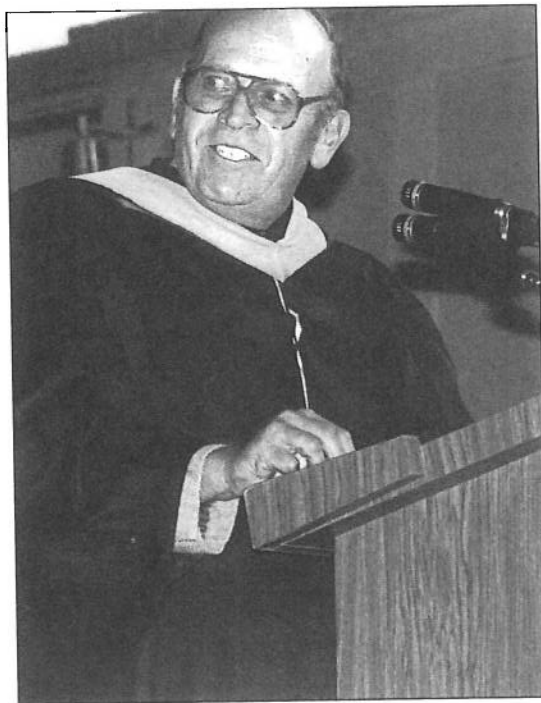
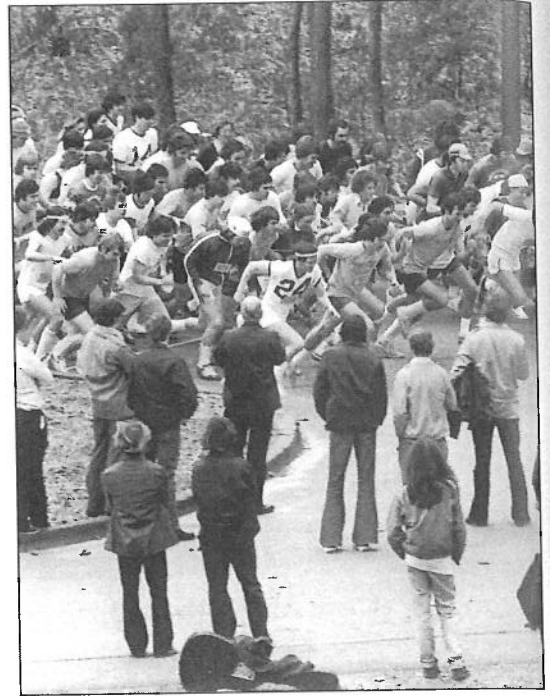


Benjamin Cogen, long-time member of the Department of Physics, in the lab with his students.

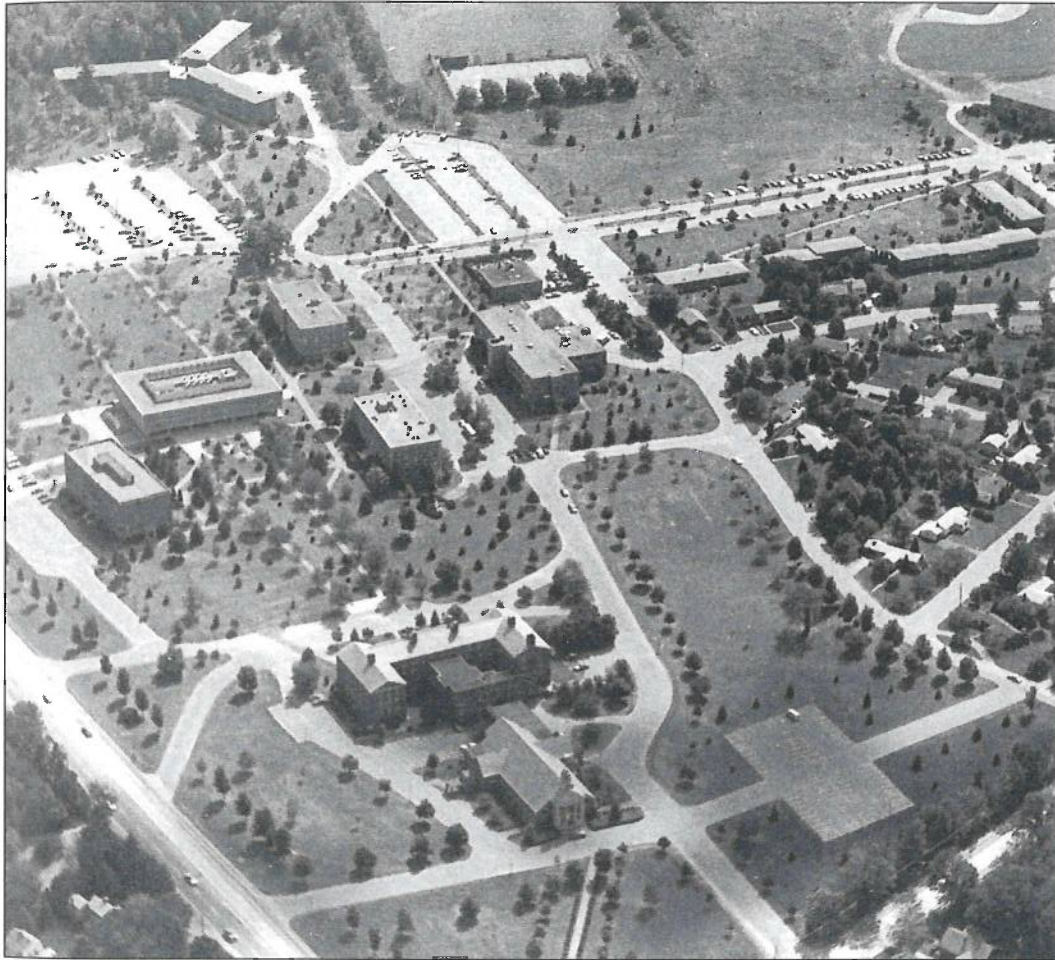


With the new S. Peter Volpe Athletic Center available as an auditorium, the college could hold large-scale events. One of the very first was a visit by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops for a Pops Night in the hockey rink on Nov. 7, 1975.

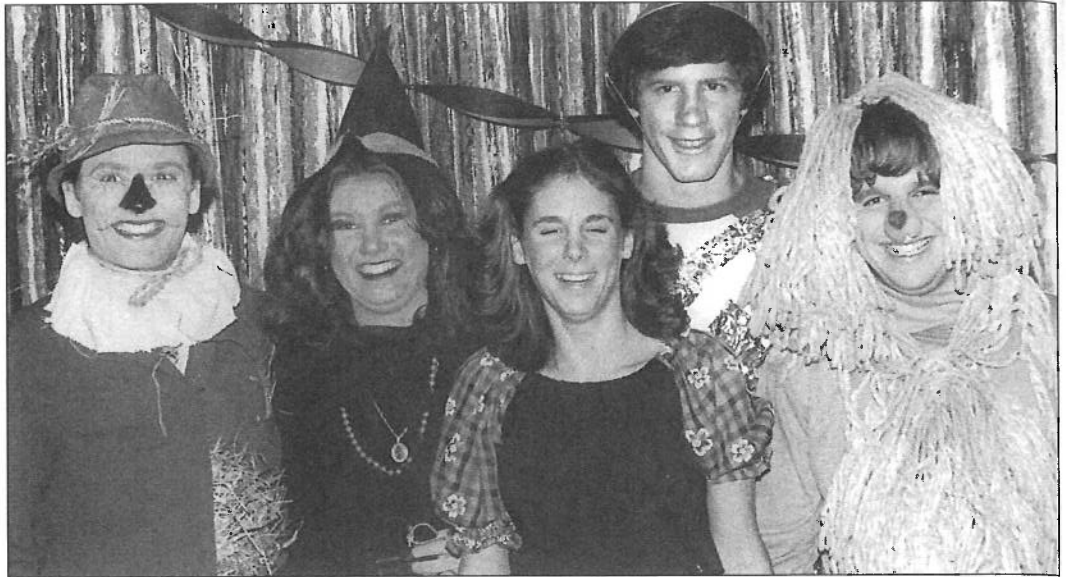
The beginning of a 1976 road race on campus. Dave McGillivray, the president of the Class of 1976, had practically everyone on campus running in the mid-70s. He later became nationally known for endurance exercise activities relating to raising funds for a number of good causes.



Often a marshal at graduation, the late James Liebke overcame many physical problems to serve the college well, whether as a professor of marketing or as the registrar.



An aerial view of the main Merrimack campus in 1979 with the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher and Austin Hall in the lower center of the picture, the three classroom buildings and the McQuade Library in the group left of center with Tagastan Hall (the student union building on the other side of the Plaza) and the heating plant dead center in the photo. Also in view are the town houses, and the two huge three-wing dorms, the edge of Monican being on the right. The baseball field is in the upper right but later will have to be moved when Andover town boards judge the site originally chosen for student apartments south of Ash Center too close to wetlands. Later the apartments will go on the site of the first baseball field and a new one will be constructed directly south of Ash, along with softball and lacrosse fields. The bottom edges of the picture show the residential areas off Elm Street at the very eastern end of Andover and off Route 114 in North Andover.



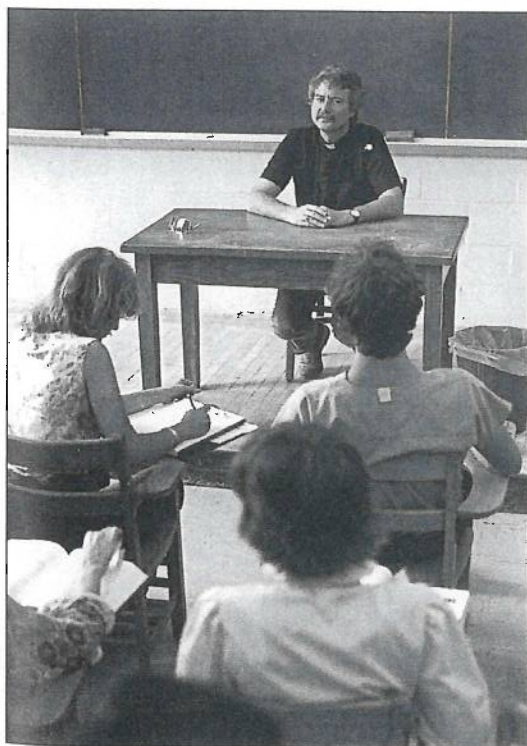
Cast members of *The Wizard Of Oz*.



Reunion Time in 1979. Time to pose.

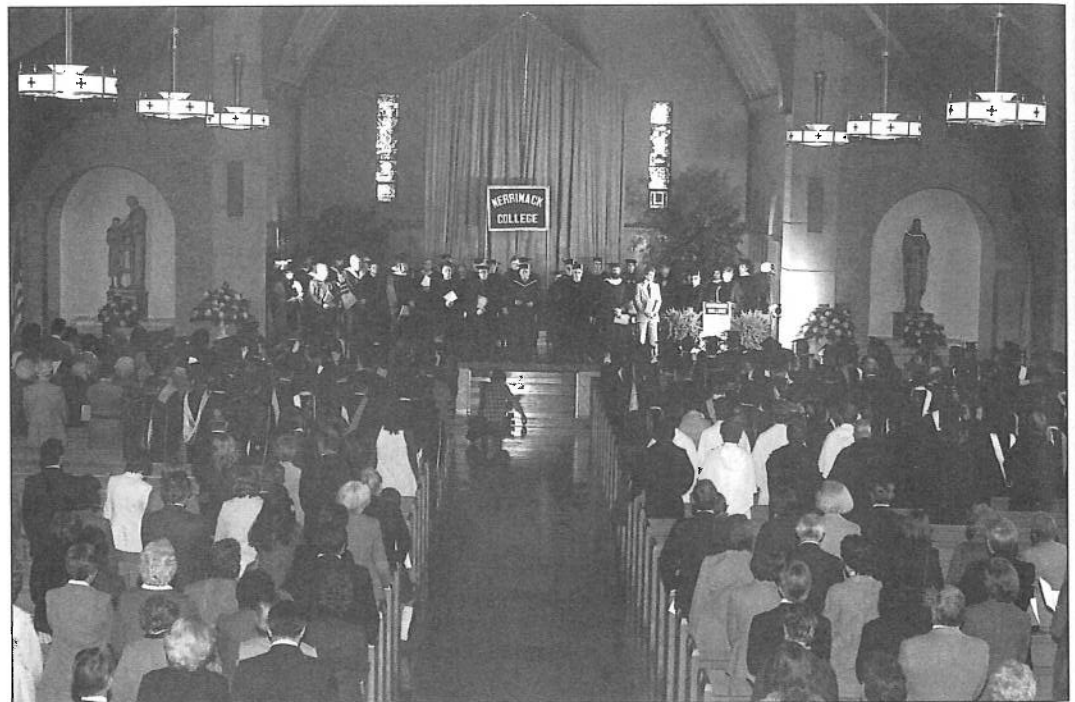
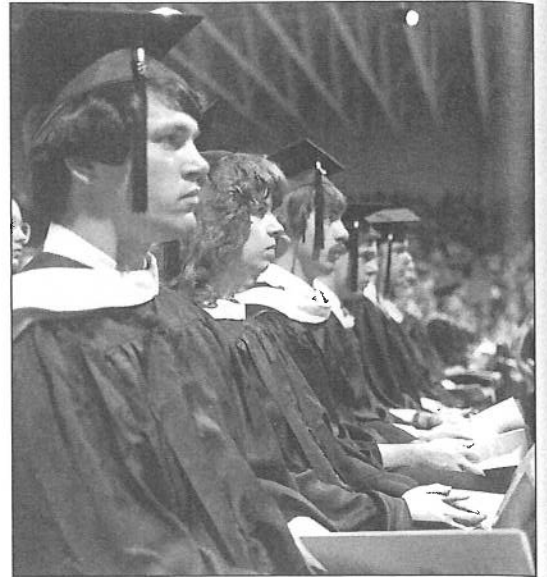


The Reunion Barbecue.

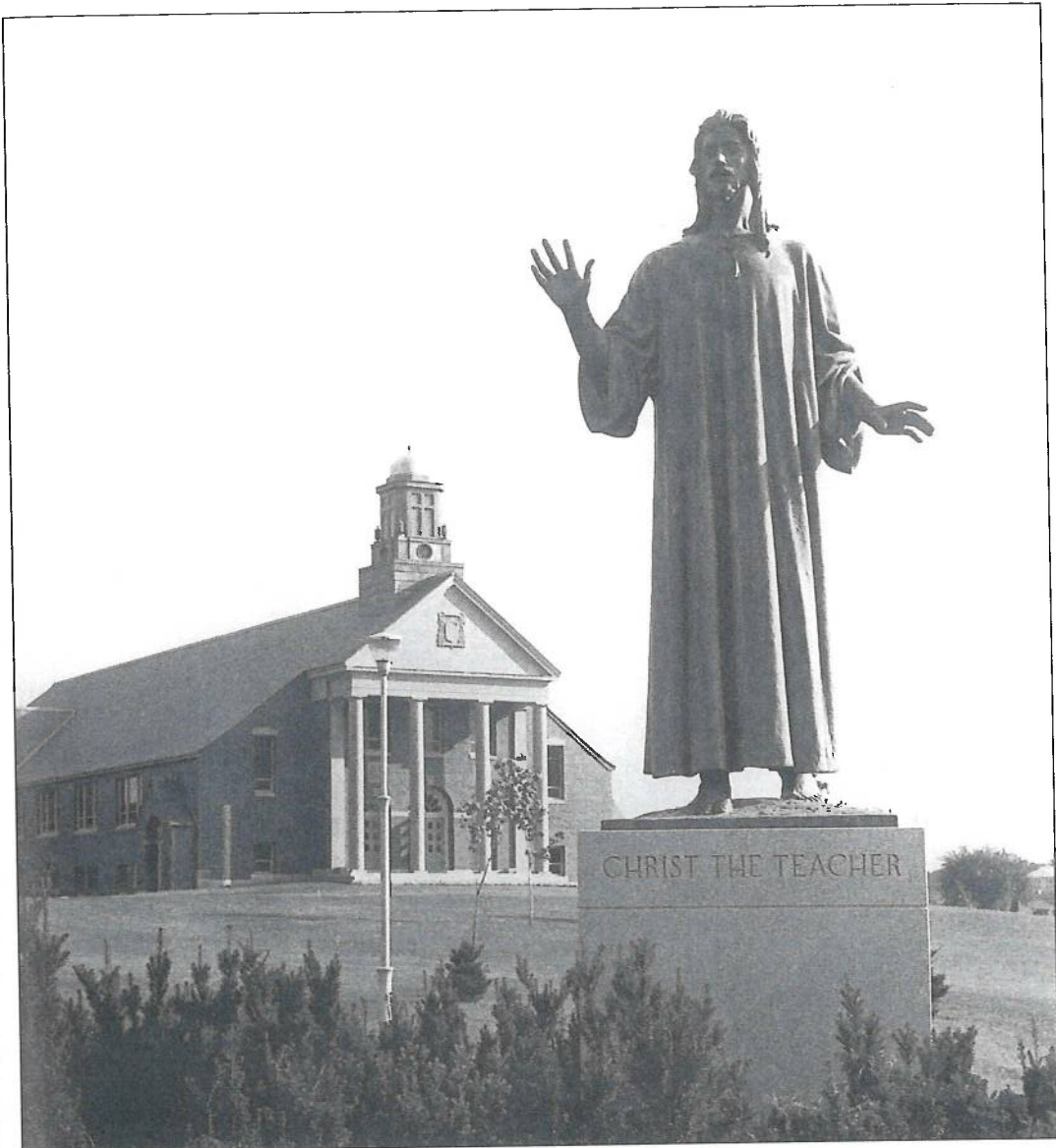


Rev. Thomas Casey, OSA, in class in 1980.

Commencement for the Class of 1981.



The inauguration in the Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher of Rev. John E. Deegan, OSA, Merrimack's fourth president, on Saturday, Oct. 24, 1981. He would remain president for nearly 13 years before being elected Prior Provincial of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. He succeeded Rev. John Coughlan, OSA, who in less than five years had improved the college's finances.



The statue of Christ the Teacher, on the walkway from Wilson's Corner up to the church, was given by Mr. and Mrs. Louis H. Hamel of Haverhill in 1956. The photograph was taken about a quarter-century later. The college infirmary, dedicated in December 1972, was also a gift of the Hamels.