7-22-1970

Rev. Andrew L. Seebold, S.M. Celebrates Golden Jubilee

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DAYTON, Ohio, July 22, 1970 --- When a young man of 16, Andrew L. Seebold, entered the Society of Mary from Louisville, Kentucky, in 1920, he was told by some of his elders that he was too young to make such a serious decision. He was immature, they reasoned. He probably wouldn't last.

Today, 50 years later, that man, grown in age, wisdom and devotion to God, is celebrating his Golden Jubilee as the Rev. Andrew L. Seebold, S.M. He will celebrate in the way he has celebrated every day since his ordination to the priesthood on March 17, 1934, through the holy sacrifice of the Mass. He has chosen Emmanuel Church, Dayton, at 3:30 p.m. this Saturday, July 25, for the occasion. A reception will follow at the University of Dayton's Kennedy Union Ballroom.

Much has transpired for this man of God in the half century he has been a member of a religious order. Perhaps, the most significant events in his life took place while he was the 16th President of the University of Dayton, 1953-59.

It was during this period that the little school on the hill started to grow into the 10,000-student, $45,000,000 plant it is today. Under Father Seebold, UD conducted its first community-wide fund-raising drive for new physical facilities. A sum of $2,500,000 was realized in the year 1956 and within three years the Wohlleben Hall of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering and the Sherman Hall of Science had risen to relieve the facilities-pinch the University had been in for several years.

It was also during this time that Father Seebold instituted a University self-survey, a document which laid the groundwork for the plans and growth of the 1960s. It was to eventually double UD's educational capacity and make it the fifth largest Catholic university in the United States.

Academic accreditation in some areas, denied because of lack of facilities, was achieved and the University joined the prestigious Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges.

Father Seebold's success as top administrator at UD was not surprising. He had been successful in all his works, be they large or small. Following his 1924 graduation from the University he taught in high schools in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Covington, Kentucky; and Dayton until 1938. At that point in his career, he was made Director of Mt. St. John's, the headquarters of the Society of Mary's Cincinnati Province.

He served in that capacity until 1941 when he returned to school, Catholic University in Washington, D.C., to study for his master's and doctoral degrees in sociology. He completed the work in 1947. He was then appointed President of the Society's Cathedral Latin High School in Cleveland and remained there until his appointment to UD.

Following the UD tenure, Father Seebold, like presidents before him, returned to teaching. He was named the Dean, School of Education, at the Catholic University of Puerto Rico. He returned to UD in 1961 to serve as a Professor of Sociology and as Administrative Director of the Psychological Services. He maintains the two titles today although he has retired from teaching.

Despite this material success over the years, Father Seebold still considers himself priest first, administrator second. When asked in 1969 what his greatest gift as a priest was, he replied: "The privilege of offering the holy sacrifice of the Mass daily. ...It is my greatest gift to possess and live the life of Christ and pass it on to others...."

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