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**CAMPION HALL: JESUIT GAMBLE AND COMMITMENT**

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Alumni returning to campus during the centennial will see among the many changes a two-story grey building along the Madison Ave. wall of the Library Green next to the President's office building (Scranton Hall.) This is Campion Hall, the new residence for 31 Jesuits which represents a remarkable new commitment of the Order to the University.

Occupied in May by a community previously divided between the Scranton "Estate" and two other houses, the new home was financed entirely by the Jesuits to provide a fire-safe, hospitable, more suitable and useful center both for the community's religious life and also for availability to the University. (A dozen priests continue to live in the student residences.) In a simple wooden and stucco structure with only a small basement, each of the bedrooms provides space for sleeping, working and receiving guests. The design, which includes several rooms equipped for the handicapped, guarantees that only hospitalization or the need for continual nursing care would force retired Jesuits from the environment where they served and formed friendships.

Expending the savings gathered over several decades to build a substantial home but in a period when numbers of Jesuits continue to decline rapidly and a greater percentage are forgoing educational service for pastoral work and direct ministry to the poor, refugees, etc. not only constitutes a great act of faith in the University but represents a considerable gamble. Jesuit residences in other colleges frequently have many vacant rooms already. In light of this risk and a continuing evolution of community lifestyle and hospitality in response to the Vatican Council and Jesuit Congregations, the new building incorporates several innovative features.

Most important of these is the design which insures that even a very small Jesuit community could afford to remain there in the center of school life. For the new home actually is made up of four areas, each of which could be devoted to non-Jesuit uses while the others are retained. Most original of these sections is a "townhouse" [area D] with its own entrance, a family-sized kitchen and living-dining room in which from perhaps six to twelve Jesuits could live as an independent group now or later. Between it and the office-chapel area [B] and the more

traditional residential wing [A] containing living-dining areas somewhat smaller than the Estate is another residential area [C] which can be converted into a second "townhouse." Even now these sections allow somewhat different levels of hospitality and openness which respect variety in age, health and temperment.

The flexibility of the design, the very substantial reduction in living expenses anticipated over many years, the attractiveness to potential Jesuit recruits for the University of both the building and the community's energy and boldness, make of Campion Hall a second cornerstone both of Jesuit commitment and increased service to the school.

(St. Edmund Campion, S.J. was a promising English university scholar enjoying royal patronage who was martyred during the Reformation, "boasting" to his executioners that they could not so easily get rid of the Jesuits.)

After some renovation the original Scranton family residence will be a much more public facility than before its sale to the University by the Jesuits. Housed there will be reception and seminar areas, presidential dining and faculty club rooms, library-archival storage and offices for the Provost, the Graduate School and (temporarily) the new School of Health, Education and Human Resources.