

LIBRARY CONVOCATION

On September 21st an academic convocation was held in Founders Hall marking the opening of the newly renovated McGarry Library.

The convocation began with a processional of School Administrators, Faculty, and members of the Duns Scotus Honor Society. Stephanie Iovino, Secretary of Duns Scotus, carried the oldest book in the McGarry Library, a Greek Dictionary printed in 1521. After everyone was seated, the National Anthem was played, followed by the invocation given by Reverend Brother Edwin Gill, O.S.F., next he welcomed everyone to the ceremony, and thanked them for their assistance throughout the rebuilding process.

St. Francis College was then honored by the presence of guest speaker John I. Simon, Ph. D. Dr. Simon was announced by Bro. Donald, and after organizing his notes, he began a brilliant oration on the value of books in our society. He alluded to the power which lies within the bindings of certain books. He also pointed out the sad fact that our society has adopted to its best seller list, diet books, jogging books, and cook books. In summation Dr. Simon delivered an awesome and powerful speech which held the audience spellbound, while at times interjecting a touch of humor.

Following Dr. Simon's stunning address, there was an acknowledgement of gifts. A Benediction was then given by Reverend Michael Carrano. The school alma mater was sung, followed by the processional which existed Founder's Hall and down Remsen Street to the steps of McGarry Library. A ribbon-cutting ceremony then took place and once the ribbon had been cut, the processional and invited guests of the convocation proceeded into the library for a wine and cheese reception which was the finale of the day's event.

Also present at the convocation ceremony was Mr. Frank Macchiarola, Chancellor of N.Y.C. Board of Education, and Brooklyn Borough President Mr. Howard Golden.

The renovation and expansion of the library was completed at a cost of two million dollars. The reconstruction entailed major structural changes in the library and adjoining buildings. Following the completion of renovation, the McGarry Library was cited by the office of the Brooklyn Borough President as one of "Brooklyn's grand old buildings" which has withstood the test of time and have been adapted to serve new and useful purposes.

The building which houses the McGarry Library served as the corporate headquarters of the Brooklyn Union Gas Company during the 19th century.

