

ST. FRANCIS STAMP CEREMONY

OCTOBER 8, 1982

On October 8th, 1982 here at the College a ceremony in celebration of the 800th Birthday of St. Francis of Assisi was held in the Founders' Hall Auditorium area. The highlight at this celebration was the issuance of the United States Commemorative postage stamp in the honor of St. Francis. The festivities began at three o'clock in the auditorium, and finished with a wine and cheese reception in the Founders' Hall Study Area. Bro. Donald Sullivan O.S.F. presided over the events of the day as approximately one hundred invited guests looked on.

As the program for the day unfolded the National Anthem was sung by all, followed by an Invocation given by the Very Reverend Bro. Edwin Gill who is the Superior General of the Franciscan Brothers. A Welcoming address ensured this, it was given by Bro. Donald Sullivan who welcomed one and all, and expressed his happiness on this occasion.

Bro. Donald introduced Reverend James A. Gardiner, S.A. who is the Chairperson of the Executive Committee on the 800th Anniversary of the Birth of St. Francis. Reverend Gardiner gave a lengthy nonetheless informative and enlightening speech on the effect of St. Francis on the world. He noted how the Franciscan spirit inspired by St. Francis would be of great help to our troubled world. A good round of applause followed Reverend Gardiner's speech.

The next speaker introduced by Bro. Donald was the Postmaster General of Brooklyn, Jack LaZard. Mr. LaZard made a few statements about St. Francis and his effect on us and the proceeded to what would be the highlight of the day-the presentation of the *Stamp*. Bro. Donald was presented by Mr. LaZard with a sheet of the new stamp lacquered and embossed onto a wooden plaquard. Br. Donald Sullivan accepted the presentation and humorously commented that the reason the stamps were lacquered onto the wood was so that he couldn't use them.

In addition to this presentation a proclamation was read out as written by the Honorable Mayor Edward Koch of the City of New York. The proclamation said the October 8th would, from this day forward be St. Francis of Assisi Day in New York City.

Ending the ceremony's was a benediction given by the Reverend Michael A. Cerrano, President of the Alumni Association. After which the guests were moved to Founder Hall study area for a "Gala" wine and cheese reception. Immediately outside of Founders' Hall in the front of the College was a Mobile Post Office Van out of which the St. Francis Stamp was being sold. Also in the College Relations Office a commemorative first day cover was being sold for a dollar each. The reception broke up around five o'clock.

All involved in the ceremony seemed to enjoy themselves and the invited guests seemed to find the day very festive and informative.

