

## The General Theological Seminary

During the past triennium our major effort at the General Theological Seminary has been to strengthen our curriculum and build a more solid financial base for confronting an unknown future. I am pleased to say that the deficits in our operating budget, reported in 1979, have been overcome, and we have ended our past fiscal year in balance. This has been accomplished by cutbacks in our operating costs, including both faculty and staff retrenchment, coupled with a major increase in annual revenues.

The past decade has been characterized by large deficits which, as recently as 1978-79, amounted to \$316,000. Hard work and stringent budgetary control lowered this figure to \$165,000 in 1979-80; and for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1981 there was an actual excess of revenues over expenses and mandatory transfers of some \$91,000. Another balanced budget is projected for 1981-82. This budgetary stability has been reached well before the date projected by the Long-Range Planning Committee—because of considerably increased enrollment, higher levels of annual voluntary support, and a significant increase in the influx of capital funds, together with the economy measures that have been established. The long-range outlook is for continued financial equilibrium. The major problem to be faced in the years immediately ahead is some \$7 million of deferred maintenance.

Renovation of our married student housing was a high priority on our agenda and I am pleased to say that this has been accomplished. The majority of our married students are now accommodated in modern, comfortable apartments ranging in size from studios to three bedrooms. I feel that this has been a major factor in attracting an increased population of married students to the Seminary in recent years.

Another significant happening since last General Convention was the Trustee decision to begin a capital fund-raising effort for the sum of \$12 million—to provide instructional endowment and to begin the rehabilitation of the Seminary's physical plant, which has suffered badly through the years from deferred maintenance. As this is being written we have realized almost \$8.4 million of this amount in just about two year's time. This Convention will see the kick-off of what we anticipate to be the final phase of the Campaign for General among our graduates, former students, and friends. We are running two years ahead of our original schedule, and, hopefully, we will see the Campaign completed by May 1983.

The General Seminary has made great strides in its annual support programs in the last triennium. Restricted and unrestricted gifts, grants, and bequests have risen from \$418,184.15 in 1978-79 to \$548,770.76 in 1979-80; and last year reached a total of \$713,177.79. The most important component of this growth has been the annual support the Seminary has received from its alumni/ae, from its friends, and from parishes through the Theological Education Offering. In 1978-79 annual giving accounted for \$169,207 of the figure reported above; in 1979-80 this grew to \$187,754; and last year to \$256,153. Our budgetary stability is based in no small measure on this significant growth in support and must continue in the years ahead to insure that what we have worked so hard to achieve is not lost. Volunteers from among our graduates and friends are at work in all phases of our development program to sustain the level of support that is required.

We are hopeful that the bill coming before this General Convention to insure Church-wide support of theological education will not only pass, but will begin a new era of mutual accountability between the seminaries and the Church-at-large. Without a much broader base of support than now exists, the future of our seminaries is precarious indeed.

For the academic year just past, enrollment at General reached capacity, with 181 full-time students enrolled. This represents a student/faculty ratio of 10-1 and a diverse student body coming from 57 dioceses, 35 states, and eight foreign countries. Approximately one-half of the student body is married, a third are women, and a tenth minority students or students from outside the United States.

The focus of the General Seminary curriculum is on providing a dialogue between the classical disciplines and the practice of ministry, with increasing attention being given to the importance of the urban environment in which the Seminary is located. In addition to the M.Div. program, General Seminary offers an M.A. program, and a Th.D. program aimed at preparing future teachers for the Church. The summer S.T.M. program in spiritual direction initiated last June brought twenty-three persons together from the United States, Canada, Australia and Great Britain.

Throughout the past three years considerable attention has been given to a process of long-range planning which has touched every aspect of Seminary life. As part of this plan the Board of Trustees and the faculty of the Seminary adopted the following statement as an expression of who it is that we understand ourselves called to be:

*As members of the Body of Christ, we seek to be and to become a community for whom an ongoing and deepening conversion to new life in Christ is a constant goal. We seek to be those who can invite and call others to that life of conversion by our own understanding of the Christian faith—biblical, historical, and theological—and our ability to reflect on that faith; by the forming of a liturgical and spiritual life which is integrated into the whole of our being, by the development of educational and hermeneutical skills, by developing the sensitivity and the skills needed to minister pastorally in both routine and crisis situations, and by an understanding of the involvement in an urban and global world where uncertainty and ambiguity will be context for our mission.*

As we move into the next triennium, we will be placing major emphasis on the raising of capital funds and the renovation of our campus. We see this task, however, not as something isolated from our ongoing life, but as a task necessary for providing the resources and the space to implement what we say we are and believe we are called to do.

Respectfully submitted,  
James C. Fenhagen, *Dean*