Master Plan Completed After Three Year Study

The 10-year master plan announced yesterday for Providence College marks three years in the making.

Steps began in November of 1964 with the formation of an academic planning committee with representation from all departments. This was during the presidency of the Very Rev. Vincent C. Dore, O.P., now the college's chancellor.

Also formed was the President's Council, a group of civic and business leaders, to provide the college with the benefit of their financial, legal and managerial experience.

An intensive self-study was undertaken to determine Providence's strengths and weaknesses as well as the questions to which has been, where are we now, and where are we going.

A look at the previous ten years from 1955 to 1965 showed that enrollment had more than doubled—from 1,200 to 2,500 students. The faculty had increased from 80 to 172. However, the number of teaching Dominican priests had increased from 65 to 85, while the lay faculty quadrupled from 25 to 104.

It was noticed that during this period of growth there was no corresponding growth in the physical plant. No increases were shown in library facilities, classrooms, general laboratories, faculty and administrative office space, or student recreational and social areas.

Only weaknesses besides the physical ones were studied and the College's strengths were analyzed as well. Basic decisions were made on the future study analysis. Providence College will remain Catholic and Dominican. It will remain a liberal arts college, and not attempt to become a university. A controlled growth to meet the needs of the community will be undertaken and emphasis will be placed on quality over the next ten years.

Once these basic decisions were reached, the work of how to obtain the goals was undertaken. Budget committees were then formed by the President's Council. Each committee looked into physical expansion and academic committees studied curricular needs.

Campus physical plans were undertaken in cooperation with the nationally known firm of Sasaki, Dawson, DeMay Associates of Watertown, Mass. In 1965, Paul Haas, O.P., president of the college said: "The master plan we have adopted is one that is self sufficient and objective in terms of the community's future." The master plan for the campus included a master physical plan for locating new buildings, roads and parking space. The master plan was completed by the end of 1966 and included a master physical plan for locating new buildings, roads and parking space.

The first step of the program, construction of the library, is always under way. Other construction projects are in various planning stages. All the buildings are expected to be completed by 1972.

The College will celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary in 1969. The Ten Year Program will be the capstone of Providence's first half century of growth. The cornerstone of the next fifty years was placed on the Elmhurst campus in 1962.

Providence opened its doors in September of 1914 with the formation of a corporation for its own tradition and with the services it has rendered to society in general. He added his own personal comment to the press release made public yesterday: "If teaching is effective it will be related to the service (to the community), and this can be done, he said "by putting all the brainpower we have at our disposal to the community, but never to the detriment of our first responsibility."

With regard to the role of the community in affecting the development of the campus, the details of which are still under study, the campaign goal and plan will be announced after the first of next year.

New buildings and renovations of existing ones is expected to cost $9,450,000. The Student Union will be the first project.

Providence College has come to remain master of its own fate it must assume a daring initiative in creating the future. Our aim is superiority in the quality of our educational program. The time to act is now," Father Haas said.

The plan includes construction of a new library, student union, dormitories, expanded dining facilities, and a Dominican residence center; improvements for faculty salaries; increased scholarship and student loan funds; curricular development; and added classroom and laboratory space.

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Providence opened its doors in September of 1914 with a faculty of nine and a student body of 79, and one building. Today the College has 16 buildings on a 79-acre campus and a student body of more than 250,000 served by some 200 faculty members. Alumni number about 11,000 men who reside in every state of the union. However, about 650 graduates each year come from Rhode Island or nearby Massachusetts.

A major portion of the $23.7 million development plan will be connected to the construction of the Library and new dormitories to house 500 students will be built between Alumni and Raymond Halls. Present dining facilities in Raymond Hall will be extended.

The Dominican Community Center will include living and dining facilities, a chapel, recreation rooms and infirmary, and will cost $1,250,000.

Relocation of walks and drives, power plant additions, and general renovation of existing buildings will cost one million dollars and fourth floors after the library and student union are built. Floors will be added to the science and engineering buildings. The cost of the library will be $3,325,000.

New classrooms will be added in Harkins Hall on the third floor and a new library with an attached computer center will be added. A new dining facility will be added to Alumni Hall and new facilities will be added to Raymond Hall.

A loan fund of $750,000 will be set up. Of this $3.5 million dollars will be for new faculty, salary increments, sabbaticals and subsidization of research and publication. An endowed chair fund of one million dollars will be set up.

Past and Future of College Meet at Half-Century

Providence College stands between the two halves of its first century. Founded in 1917 by the Dominican Fathers, the new College was but a part of the Order’s plans for expanding its educational facilities in the United States. Providence College was expected to be only one of a number of new colleges that would arise from the Mission of the Dominican Fathers. The College opened its doors in 1919 and entered the first half century approaches.

Character of College Determined by Balance

Progress and expansion have marked the fully emerging character of Providence College. Since 1919, the College has witnessed a continual development of its programs and facilities. Today, it stands as an institution fully capable of holding its own in the educational system.

Providence is Primarily an Undergraduate Liberal Arts College

Its chief goal has been to give to its students the broad base they will need for the fullness and good citizenship. A foundation for productivity and "balance" is a key word in its own in the educational system. Providence seeks a balance—"character and intellect—these elements in mind, better to serve the Providence. In a more subtle sense, the completion of the College discourse marks the end of an old age and the beginning of a new era for Providence.

New Era For The College

The building program which constitutes the newest and most comprehensive development of the College offers the present challenge and opportunity for the Providence. In a more comprehensive sense, it will lay the foundation for the Providence. It will express the confidence with which the College goes forward and the hand of Providence. It will express the confidence with which the College goes forward. Those goals, perhaps summed up in words "character" and "service," demand hard work and a large measure of boldness.

Good Sense of Direction

As a relatively young school Providence College has established an impressive record of educational service to the public. For the past decade however, even though PC has experienced continuous growth, it has been outdistanced in ability to provide quality education by many other institutions. An educational "revolution" is taking place with Providence College excluded from this participation because of its limited resources and a lack of administrative boldness to cope with the future.

With the unveiling of the new development program this is no longer the case. Providence College, by aggressively concerning itself with the future seems to have academically "come of age." The development program is more than just a set of plans for physical expansion; it is a re-birth; a new direction for Providence College.

In the objectives of the program we see a bold and dynamic institution not a victim of the so-called "Crisis in Catholic Education." We see a college large enough to provide the benefits of size and small enough to concentrate on the individual. We see a better Providence College student with a better quality education enabling him to compete with students of any other college or university.

Although the plans for development deal with the near future, they affect us in the present. The realization that Providence has made a commitment to growth and excellence should be a source of pride for students and alumni who make their association with the college more meaningful and rewarding. Each year of the planned improvement will enhance the Providence College diploma, and it is the college's duty to support this new undertaking in any way we can.
The College presents this Program in the tradition of sound learning and bold up-to-dateness.

It presents the Program as worthy of full support in the American tradition of self-help, personal industry, and quality in higher education.

The outgrowth of four years of intense and broad discussion to and study, involving Administration, Faculty, the President's Council, alumni and others; the Program is designed to bring improvement to every aspect of the College life and work. It will provide vast improvements in planning and appearance, and it will become the means for improvement in learning resources, and in human resources of faculty and student body.

The Program calls for sweeping additions and improvements to buildings and campus, which may be briefly described as follows:

A New Library

No single resource is so sorely needed as a new library building. Providence College's library has been housed in quarters in the main building—with consequent limitations on growth and increasing obsolescence as well as the College's intellectual resources. A new building is at this moment under construction. It will provide ultimate capacity for nearly 60,000 volumes—perhaps Rhode Island's largest library, after Brown University—and "as expandable as a balloon," as Father Haas has put it! Ample in size, with seating capacity for 1,200 students, with fifty faculty studies, and every modern feature of design and function, a compelling learning center and the symbol of Providence's advance. In practical terms, it will require increases in every item of the library's budget. In fact, increases in each year are planned to run, in 1921 overall, with increases in individual items of library budget running in the same line, as much as 220% to over 500%.

The cost of this project is expected to be $3,500,000.

A Student Union

Providence was originally a "commuter's college. Dormitory space has been added from time to time until 3,100 students can now be housed, though only with serious overcrowding. Scattered recreational and other facilities have been added in the Alumni Hall (gymnasium). But a real center of student life is sorely needed.

Providence is concerned with the "whole life" of the student over this issue as not only classroom and study life but also his social and recreational, his life in various extra-curricular activities, his "relaxed" hours and his hobbies. One of these is very essential part of the process of the student's development, for day students as well as resident students.

The environment in which these parts of student's life can make an important contribution and enhance the general stimulus to sound learning. Therefore, Providence intends to build a Student Union to help achieve these purposes. It will contain a variety of recreational facilities, lounges, eating facilities, headquarters for student groups and activities (student government, publications, debate, dramatics, spiritual growth, etc.), and an adequate auditorium, now lacking. The cost will be approximately $200,000.

Student Residence Halls

Daily life within the college community is an important factor in the total college experience, and in its own way can contribute as much to a student as his formal classroom studies.

For several years the shortage of dormitory space has forced Providence College to discriminate against Rhode Island students from even considering campus residence, and has required the College in certain of the dormitories to crowd three, four, and five students into rooms planned for two.

To enable more local students to add this important dimension to their college experience, to relieve the present over-crowding, and to add the additional space in order that enrollment might expand to 3,000 students in the next ten years, the college needs to build two new dormitories adding nearly 600 beds and residence accommodations.

This increase will necessitate additional dining facilities. The best possible food, served in the most pleasant of environments, is also important to student life.

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Half-Century . . .
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The cost of the new dormitories and the additional dining facilities will be $3,300,000.

Dominican Faculty Residence
One of the most important elements in the Program is a new residence for the Dominican Fathers. This is much more than a routine housing measure, important as it is to remove the Dominicans from their cramped quarters on the fourth floor of the main building where there have always been. In a college the size of Providence, student faculty contacts are a special asset. In a Dominican college much of the point of the Dominican “presence” becomes lost if the Fathers never see the students outside the classroom. Yet the demands of the cloistered life, added to the inaccessible location of the present Dominican quarters, combine to remove these skilled counsellors to too large a degree from student contacts. A striking and exciting plan for a new residence will change all this and recapture the full asset of the Dominicans. A new Dominican community center will emerge, including dining facilities, monastic chapel, recreation rooms and infirmary. This is expected to cost $1,250,000.

Renovations and Campus Development
Major needs for improvement, modernization and remodeling of existing plant have been piling up, or will be created by the building program. $1,000,000 will be needed for an assortment of renovations of existing buildings, including structural repair of Aquinas Hall, creation of an audio-visual center, power plant additions, and rearrangement of campus walks and drives.

$500,000 will be required to begin the development of the recently acquired campus addition of 21 acres nearby. This will involve new recreation facilities, playing fields and parking lots.

$1,300,000 will convert the third and fourth floors of Harkins Hall—made available by the new Library, Dominican Residence and auditorium—into urgently needed classrooms and offices; will add a third floor of laboratories to Hickey Hall, center of research in the health sciences; will add expanded facilities for the Psychology Department and provision of Psychology laboratories; and will permit modernization of laboratories and equipment in Albertus Magnus Science Hall.

Thus, these renovations, additions and improvements will require an additional total of $3,000,000.

The new building construction is viewed as a whole, every part of which has virtually equal priority in a linked plan to advance the academic aims of Providence, and make possible its expansion in size. All will be undertaken now or in the near future and are expected to be completed by 1972. The renovation and improvement will of necessity be a less simultaneous and more extended undertaking, as some parts must wait upon completion of new construction. The important consideration is that Providence sees this as not a “mere bricks and mortar” program. Rather, it is a considered program designed both to tighten and expand the college community, to promote its normal, healthy character, and most of all to stimulate greatly the intellectual zeal which must permeate any college campus with aspirations to excellence.

The Program also calls for a direct development of academic strength. This will take several forms.

Library
Major strengths are to be added to the resources of the library as well as to its housing. In its old quarters, the library has been unable to keep pace either with the growth of the College or the explosion of knowledge. The library has just been strengthened on the documentary and research side by acquisition of the papers of the late Congressman John E. Fogarty. But there are numerous fields in which there exists a weakness no longer to be tolerated.

Therefore, Providence seeks $1,500,000 to be spent in a massive short-term expansion of library holdings. This, with stepped-up annual expenditures continuing, is expected to more than triple the library’s size, bringing it up to over 250,000 volumes in two or three years.

In addition, $500,000 is to be expended for the special purpose of enlarging the library’s staff and providing modern equipment, so that library services can be expanded in every sense.

Progress . . .
(Continued from Page 3)
faculty, from the president and chancellor on down, in community and State life in a wide range of positions. They have included service with such groups as the United Fund, the Rhode Island Council of Community Services, the Holiday Festival, the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, the Repertory Theater of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island State Council for the Arts, and positions such as member of the Commission of Revision of the State Constitution, member of the Governor’s Commission on Crime, advisor to the Rhode Island Constitutional Convention, Chairman of the Air and Water Pollution Committee of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, Director of the Providence Unit of the American Cancer Society, consultants to numerous city and state committees dealing with education, Chairman of the Committee to Study Tax Structure in Rhode Island, member of the Rhode Island Consumers’ body, and many more.

These are examples which could be duplicated many times over, to say nothing of the scores of speeches, lectures, talks and articles contributed to the forum of public opinion in Rhode Island by faculty members each year.

The impact of this college on the community is total. There is one certain fact of life in Rhode Island: no matter what one does, works, goes to school, seeks health or legal services, has business with the government, public utilities or banks— in short, if one simply lives in Rhode Island he must find himself at some time each day relying on the knowledge of some one who went to Providence College. Rhode Island life is very much richer in every way because of the resources of personality, ability and specialized knowledge put at its service by Providence College.

Service to Catholics
While serving the whole community without restriction there are special aspects of Providence’s work which are of particular service to the Catholic Church in general and to the Diocese of Providence in particular. The College is not, as pointed earlier, financially supported by the Church.

Providence continues to offer to generation after generation of qualified Rhode Island Catholic young men a sound education at their very doorstep. Over one-fifth of the priests of the Diocese received their higher education at Providence, as did 60% of the 540 Dominicans of the Province of St. Joseph.

Through the Summer School of Sacred Theology, hundreds of Sisters have been enabled each year to pursue work towards a Master’s degree in Religious Education or Religious Guidance.

In summary, in all these ways, Providence has functioned as a service institution since its founding. The service record will broaden in the near future as Providence begins to carry out its large-scale plans. These plans require equally large scale support—support which the record fully justifies and which Providence must have, as an independent, non-tax-supported college.