

# Madonna College To Be Coed In Fall



DETAILS OF PLAN to turn Madonna College into a coeducational institution next fall are unveiled by Sister Mary Danatha (center), college president, and Sister Mary Lauriana, academic dean, to R. T. Thompson, executive editor of the Observer Newspapers. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

On May 20, Madonna College celebrated the 25th anniversary of the founding of the four-year liberal arts institution. On June 9, just three weeks later, the college's board of trustees voted to matriculate men in all of the programs.

In other words, Madonna College, which has opened its doors to women only for 25 years, will become co-educational with the start of the 1972-3 college year.

Announcement of the change in policies was made Monday by Sister Mary Danatha, college president.

THE DECISION culminated a lengthy study by an ad hoc committee on co-education which recommended the change in a final report to Sister Danatha for presentation to the trustees.

During the study, the college community - including the student body, alumnae, faculty and administration - was polled by a questionnaire designed by the committee. In deciding to become coed, Madonna is following a path

set by several all-women colleges in the east and Midwest and by several all-male universities and colleges which decided to admit women.

Perhaps the largest male institution was Notre Dame University where the administration decided to admit a limited number of female students starting next fall.

SEVERAL FACTORS contributed to the change in student mix of Madonna. Basically, the realities of today have influenced the college community and the trustees to move in the direction of coeducation.

"Although it is difficult to weigh the factors as to their degree of influence or list them according to priorities," said Sister Danatha in explaining the Board's decision, "I would say that the economic and academic reasons prevailed."

In order to qualify for federal institutional grants in nursing and for student grants and loans, Madonna College must admit men to nursing

and health related programs by the fall of 1972.

The assurance of compliance with Public Health Service Act sections 796A and 845 certifying to this policy must be signed by the college president.

Sister Danatha presented these facts to the board and emphasized that the college would lose federal grants in nursing and for student loans and grants which are predicated on use for all students and not for one sex only.

BY CHARTER in 1947, Madonna College is neither "male or female." It has been so by choice and by tradition.

The single sex concept was ingrained by an almost all-religious enrollment from 1947-1949 when the full time lay enrollment began to exceed that of the full time religious enrollment.

In 1968 the lay part-time enrollment exceeded that of the part-time religious group. Madonna has admitted men as special students since the early '50s for such programs as liberal arts, in-service

teacher education, community service programs as voluntary probation officers and adult education in art.

Trustees voted to maintain the residence hall for women only and will not make on-campus residence facilities available for men.

SISTER DANATHA stressed that academically and financially, coeducation is desirable and possible at the college without sacrificing its Christian philosophy and its educational task: "For truth and service."

She indicated the curriculum is fashioned to give quality education in the areas of service applicable to both men and women such as in teaching (elementary and secondary); nursing, medical technology and other allied health fields presently being developed; sociology and social welfare, including child care and criminal justice programs in corrections and law enforcement; religious education; public relations, communications, graphic arts; physical education, special education to aid handicapped and mentally disturbed and administrating to the aged.

Sister Danatha added that financially, coeducation is desirable and necessary for support of the college. It will increase the enrollment projections for this fall; it will qualify the college for federal student aid - loans and grants - and institutional grants for the allied health programs which include nursing among others.

It will help meet the community needs which call for paraprofessional and professional men and women (as corrections, child care, religious instruction, law enforcement, allied health fields).

It tends for a more realistic participation in the Catholic Colleges Consortium and better articulation with the many community colleges in Livonia and neighboring areas.

IN ITS REPORT to the administration and the board, the ad hoc committee stated that Madonna College's financial situation would be aided in two directions by becoming coed.

1 - Federal agencies are making large amounts of funds available for programs the college is able to sponsor in areas of nursing, criminal justice, gerontology, VPO, and drugs. Madonna has the capacity to initiate these programs and obtain that aid.

However, new federal rulings may make single sex institutions ineligible for these funds. By remaining a single sex institution, Madonna risks losing this outside help it needs in order to start the programs.

2 - Additional students will help defray the fixed operating costs of Madonna. The new students, male and female, attracted by the above programs would add incremental tuition income while utilizing the space and facilities of the institution which are currently operating far below capacity.

The committee recommended that male attendance be limited to commuters. No plans for a male residence hall are deemed feasible at the present time.

THE STUDY stressed that Madonna's financial reserve is not so large that the college could afford to simply sit tight. Debts on the parking lot, dormitory and activities building excise a constant drain on any profits the college derives.

The committee pointed out that the financial security of the college will depend primarily on increased enrollment, increased tuition income and increased help from outside sources.

The membership of the ad hoc committee included: Chairman James Reilly, Sister Mary Janice, Sister Mary Lauriana, Sister Mary Dennis, Dr. Donald Plautz, Randal Hoyer, Bonnie Wilson, Susan Mogilnicki, Kathy Krajenta, R.T. Thompson, Dr. Donald Friedrichs and Sister Danatha.

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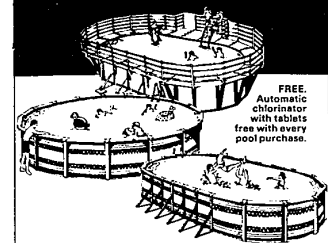
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