

First Commencement Celebrated at Unification Theological Seminary, Barrytown

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Rev. Moon delivered his Commencement Address, "Become a Physician and Leader," in English

July 1 was, as Rev. Moon remarked in his Seminary graduation address, a very significant day in the history of the Unification Church. In a ceremony marked by dignity, the first class of the Unification Theological Seminary graduated from their two-year Master of Religious Education program.

The ceremony, held in the Seminary's chapel on the morning of July 1, drew relatives of over half of the seniors.

The Commencement exercises opened with a magnificent prelude by the New York Symphony Orchestra Brass Ensemble. The procession was led by the Seminary faculty and officers clad in black academic robes. Rev. and Mrs. Moon walked between the faculty and the graduating class, whose members wore blue academic gowns and mortarboards. The full assembly rose and to the accompaniment of the brass ensemble, sang the "Star Spangled Banner." Mr. Michael Warder then welcomed the guests to the first Commencement exercises of the Unification Theological Seminary. Dr. Richard Rubenstein, a theologian and professor of religion at the University of Florida, then gave the invocation. In his prayer, he expressed gratitude that the seeds sown in this community of faith were now bearing its first fruits, which, appropriately, were being offered to God.



Rev. and Mrs. Moon, and Mr. David Kim with the graduating class of 1977

Mr. Neil Salonen then challenged the new graduates to be ambassadors of God. "Hope has to be made real if it is to continue to live. We must accept the challenge of our times."

Mrs. Therese Stewart, Dean of Academic Affairs, then presented the graduates. She explained to the guests that, due to the New York Board of Regents' delay in chartering the Seminary, the graduates would receive certificates stating that they had fulfilled requirements for a Master of Religious Education degree, which can be granted retroactively when the charter is approved. As Mr. Warder called the names

of the students, they each stepped up to the front of the chapel to receive their certificates from Mr. David Kim, the President of the Seminary.

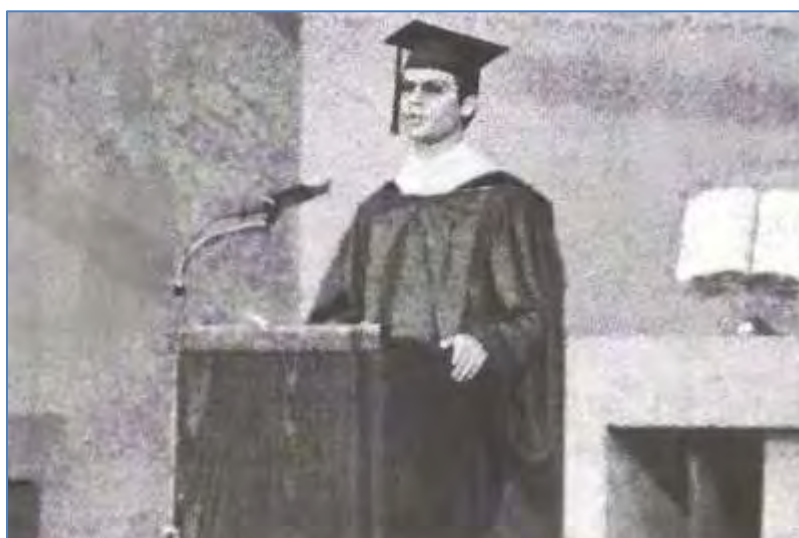


Parents, fellow students and friends came to honor graduating Seniors

Valedictorians

The Valedictory position was shared between two seniors since both had the distinction of outstanding academic work. The first Valedictory address was given by Klaus Lindner, who will be attending Harvard Divinity School in the fall. Klaus provoked laughter from the audience when he observed that after much speculation from the students about the value of Unification Church members acquiring master's degrees, the Board of Regents had decided the issue for us: "It doesn't look like we need a degree, after all," he quipped. But, he said, they recognized the value of their education. "The real value, of course is not yet determined. We must use our knowledge to serve God and mankind.... Today is not an ending, but a beginning."

Thomas Selover, also Valedictorian, expressed gratitude for the work of all those people who have made the Seminary possible. To the parents, he said, "Bear with us· be proud of us. And just give us ~ little time." He concluded his remarks: "We all look forward to a life of adventure, surprises, and building God's kingdom here one earth."



Klaus Lindner and Thomas Selover shared Valedictory honors.

Seminary President David Kim then delivered a Congratulatory Address. He had, he said, mixed feelings about the Seminarians going out into the world. "You are Heavenly lambs in the midst of wolves," he said. "How are you going to survive? You are going to the evil world as servants. You will need patience, endurance, and sacrifice... You must be givers, not receivers... Always remember that the worst enemy can be subjugated not by force of violence but by love. Become 'God's love distribution agencies' on earth. You must be proud of yourselves as Unificationists."

Interspersed with the addresses, the Seminary Choir first performed "Achieved is the Glorious Work," by Haydn, and, following Mr. Kim's talk, "And the Glory of the Lord," by Handel.

Rev. Moon concluded the ceremony with his Commencement Address (printed in this issue), "Become a Physician and Leader." After he delivered the speech in English, he gave the Benediction, a prayer in Korean. Then the ceremony's participants, marched from the chapel to music by the Brass Ensemble, and

led by Rev. and Mrs. Moon.

After the ceremony, graduates were joined by their parents outside, where photographs were taken, especially by proud families. Inside, President Salonen and some of the professors held a press conference: media attending included all the major TV stations and all New York newspapers.



Seminary Professor Thomas Boslooper delighted parents, students, and friends as the Master of Ceremonies for the banquet, following Commencement exercises

Banquet Tributes

Next all of the guest enjoyed a beautifully prepared banquet in the main lecture room.

Dr. Thomas Boslooper, professor of Biblical Studies, was a truly inspired and delightful Master of Ceremonies, bringing the program together with an unusual and fresh sense of humor. The program was a mixture of performances, presentations, and speeches all held together by Dr. Boslooper's narrative linking everything to the history of the Seminary's first class. Most notable were speeches by two of the original professors, Dr. Matczak, the Seminary's professor of philosophy, brought the house down with one joke after another, making his presentation even more notable by his very dignified state presence. Dr. Lewis, to the contrary delivered a very serious speech about the future responsibility of the Seminarians to devote themselves to the Church, the real heart of our movement and the sustainer of the Seminary. "I'd like to congratulate whoever brought up the idea of your joining MFTs" he said, "because that will remind you of the ladder you climbed. It was not intellectual relativizing or softness or fuzziness which started this Seminary. It was started in a North Korean prison camp and has come a long way of indemnity... "

Then class officers of the Junior Class presented the Senior Class with a plaque in honor of the Seniors with each graduate's name engraved upon it. The Senior Class presented an especially appropriate gift to Rev. and Mrs. Moon, an enormous aquarium filled with multi-colored carp in honor of the "Great Fishing Expedition" continually held at Barrytown in the last few months.



Mr. David Kim, President of the Seminary, presents certificates to graduates