

Unification Theological Seminary Celebrates Its Third Annual Convocation

Louise Strait
September 17, 1977



Seminary President David Kim addresses the third annual convocation of Unification Theological Seminary

The Unification Theological Seminary celebrated its third annual convocation on September 17, in Barrytown, New York. The convocation ceremony marked the beginning of the academic year for 44 returning seniors and 55 newly selected juniors.

As the congregation of parents and guests stood, the officers, administration, faculty and students proceeded into the chapel. Dr. Sebastian Matczak delivered the invocation followed by the installation of new faculty members by Seminary President David Kim. Dr. Edwin Ang was installed as Assistant Professor of Economics and Dr. Joseph McMahan, previously a lecturer, became Assistant Professor of Education and Philosophy.

Chief Administrator Michael Warder then read greetings from President Salonen, who was unable to attend. President Salonen said that he wanted to leave three thoughts with the students: "a challenge, a caution, and a hope." The challenge was to bridge the gap between what we really are and our public image. The caution was that wisdom, if misused, can have evil affects, as in the fall. The hope is that the Word may become incarnate in us as we develop our love and multiply God's work.

The Seminary's two-year history was then reviewed by Mrs. Therese Stewart, Academic Dean. Among highlights of the previous year, she mentioned the Seminary's Theologians' Conferences and the participation of our students and faculty in numerous interdenominational conferences.

Seminary President David Kim then gave an address to the students and audience. We have much to be grateful for, he explained. In its two years, the Seminary has created an admirable tradition. Forty-nine visiting professors, he observed, have been attracted to Barrytown, which, just several years ago, was being criticized as a "brainwashing center." What they have seen, he said, is the working together of students, teachers and administration to create a dynamic, open-minded atmosphere. He stressed the importance of finding unity in diverse traditions, and his standard for the students is that they find harmony among the spiritual, physical and academic aspects of their lives as well as between their intellect, emotion, and will. "The highway of God," he concluded, "is the unification throughway."

After the recessional, everyone went to the front lawn, where hundreds of pictures were taken of individuals and groups.

Then the faculty, administration, students, parents, and other guests were treated to a delicious lunch. During dessert, Perry Cordill hosted an informal entertainment program of songs by Seminary students from various nationalities. The United States, Japan, Germany, Finland, Norway, Holland, Israel, and Spanish America were represented. The finale was a Korean song by Mr. David Kim and Dr. Young Oon Kim.