

## Protestant Minister Is Ecumenical Teacher

West Hartford—"The college professor has an obligation not only to teach but to contribute in a meaningful way to the intellectual life of the college and to the community which it serves."

This in a nutshell is what motivates a young Episcopalian minister who teaches a course in "Contemporary Protestant Thought" at St. Joseph College here.

For Rev. Richard T. Nolan, involvement must become the lifestyle of

the teacher, so that he reflects the contemporary scene and takes into account the tide for change which is challenging traditional thought. Colleges and universities, he says, often become island of learning away from the mainstreams of life. He would like to see academic programs more closely geared to reality in the everyday world.

Assistant academic dean at the Hartford Seminary Foundation, Father Nolan also finds time to lecture at several area colleges. He has a parish in Bristol and has recently published a book, *The Diaconate Now*.

Originally from Waltham, Mass., the Episcopalian clergyman spent his early years in a Dominican parochial school. Despite the difference in religion, he found learning there an excellent preparation for life. A graduate of Trinity College, he also holds a B.D. degree from Hartford Seminary and a master's degree in religion from Yale. Currently he is working on his doctoral thesis at New York University.

When asked how he happened to teach at the Catholic liberal arts college for women in West Hartford, the visiting lecturer said his desire to broaden his own teaching experience coincided with the college's aim of widening the base of its theology courses to include electives in Protestant and Jewish tradition and thought.

Through insights into contemporary theology and philosophy, Father Nolan hopes to help students grow in awareness of what it means to be a Christian in today's world. Everyone, he says, can come closer to the essentials of faith if they will grasp the common roots of Christian belief.

To those steeped in traditional theology, Father Nolan might seem something of a liberal, while others might find his views on some aspects of Scripture quite conservative. However, he upholds the conviction that the Church can best be updated and made relevant to today if change is brought about by education from within the institutional structure.



RICHARD NOLAN

### Richard Nolan At Seminary April Meeting

Richard T. Nolan of 26 Hillside Avenue, has been invited by the Middle Atlantic Association of Graduate Professors of Religious Education to present one of the two papers at the April meeting at Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey. The other paper will be presented by Dr. Iris V. Cully, Associate Professor of Religious Education at Yale University.

Nolan will speak on "Some Possibilities for Religious Studies in Public Community Colleges." Currently he is teaching philosophy at the Mattatuck Community College, Waterbury.

The editor of the 1968 publication "The Diaconate Now," Nolan was Acting Priest-in-Charge of Trinity Episcopal Church, Bristol, recently. A graduate of Trinity College, he has earned graduate degrees at Hartford Seminary Foundation, Yale University and New York University. He has been a visiting lecturer at a number of colleges in Connecticut and New York, and has been a Bristol resident since 1967.