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From Our Chaplain

I congratulate the Catholic Graduates Club on their completion of another year of activity. It has been a constantly increasing pleasure to serve as chaplain, since I have been able to observe the growth of the Club from year to year, both in numbers and in zeal. A most encouraging symptom of this has been the increased attendance at the Corporate Communion. I have been especially glad to offer the resources of More House to the Club during the past year and I hope the members will continue to regard it as the regular place for general meetings and will also utilize its library for the preparation of their papers.

The mention of the library reminds me of a plan which you are at present discussing and which I hope can be successfully carried out, namely, the launching of a Catholic bookstore and library in New Haven. This seems to me to be the next task to which the Club should devote itself. I do not think I need to emphasize its importance, especially when such a large number of important Catholic books are being constantly published. I know, of course, that the financial difficulties of establishing such an enterprise are considerable, but I believe that other Catholic organizations and individuals in the city would be very willing to help, and you know that you have only to call on me for anything I can do in the way of cooperation and advice. The existence of such a library would be of incalculable advantage to the Church in New Haven and I am most anxious that you should devote your best efforts to the realization of this plan.

T. LAWRASON RIGGS.

May 15, 1939:

In a letter to Yale Catholic Graduate Club, Father T. Lawrason Riggs, the first Catholic Chaplain at Yale, announces the opening of STM's Chapel library and his hopes that the graduate students will make the space their own.



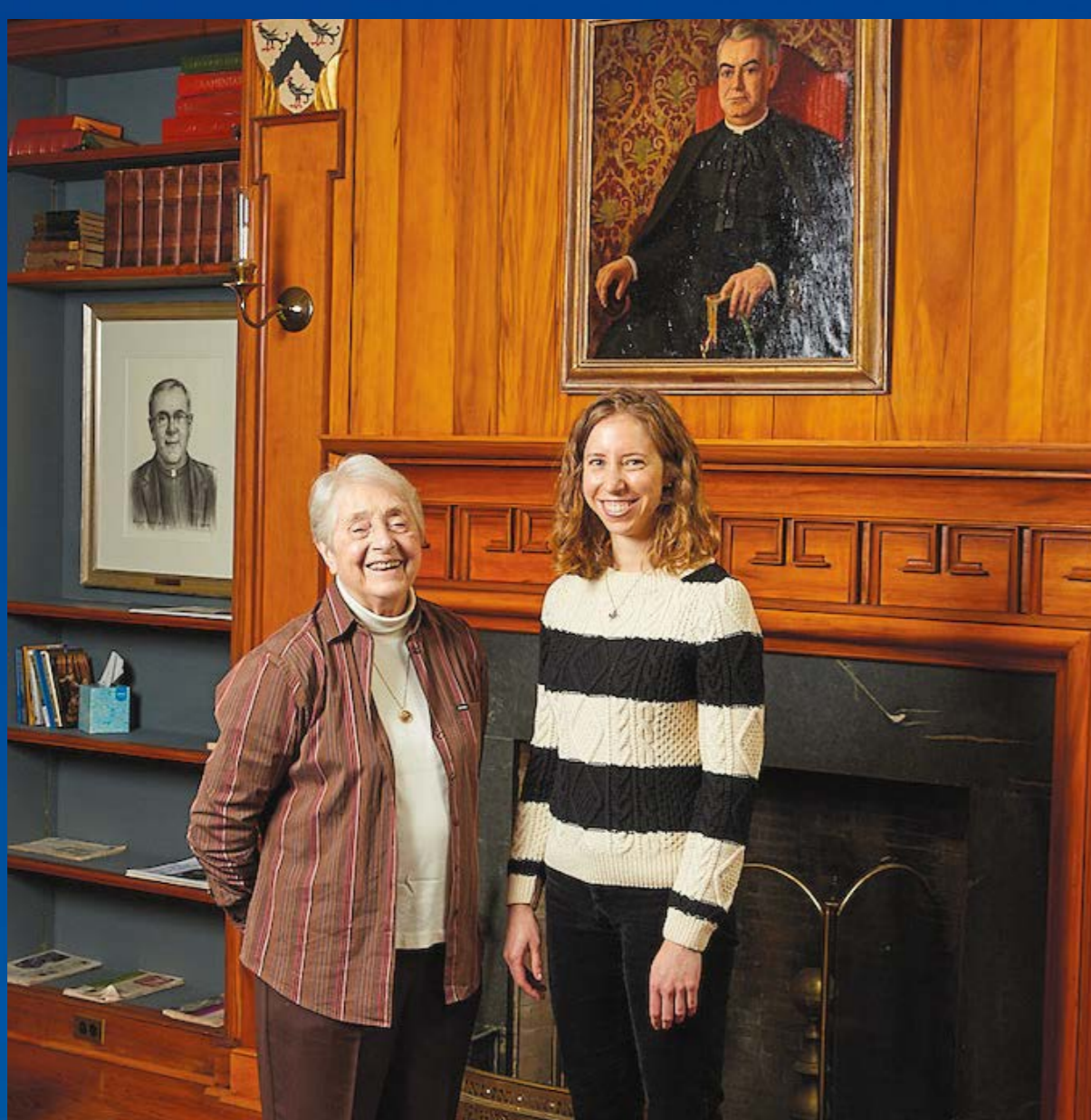
c. 1960:

Father Edwin O'Brien, the second Catholic Chaplain at Yale, chats with two students in the Chapel library, now Riggs Study. The library housed a small collection of Catholic texts and was a cozy, welcoming space for students to meet, study and speak with the Chaplain—whose office was to your left.



c.1960:

Father Edwin O'Brien, the second Catholic Chaplain at Yale, and Father James Healy, the third Catholic Chaplain at Yale, pose by the Riggs Study fireplace. They stand under the portrait of Fr. Riggs '10, the first Catholic Chaplain at Yale and the overseer of the building of STM's Chapel and its library.



2018:

Sister Sandra Schneider, I.H.M., and Anne Killian '11 '16 M.A. '19 Ph.D., O.P., talk under the portrait of Fr. Riggs before a Sunday lecture. Sister Schneider is professor emerita in the Jesuit School of Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA.

2018:

STM's Cathletes, Catholics who are also athletes, gather for prayer in Riggs Study. Current students still use Riggs Study to meet and to pray.



2019:

Graduate students gather for Theology on Tap with STM Trustee, Eric Kim '02. Eric, Co-Founder of Goodwater Capital, spoke about how his faith informs his work as a venture capitalist.