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### Bernard J. Topel MSU Baccalaureate Speaker

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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, JUNE 7

The Most Rev. Bernard J. Topel, Catholic Bishop of Spokane, will be the speaker at the baccalaureate services at Montana State University Sunday at 8 p. m. in the University Theater, acting President Gordon B. Castle announced. He will address the MSU class of 1959 on "Faith."

Bishop Topel, a native of Montana, taught at Carroll College, Helena, from 1927-1936 and from 1938 until August 1955, when he was named Coadjutor to Bishop Charles D. White of Spokane. He was consecrated a bishop September 21, 1955, in St. Helena's Cathedral, Helena. He succeeded to the office of Bishop of Spokane upon Bishop White's death September 25, 1955, and was installed October 12, 1955, in Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral, Spokane.

Since his appointment as Bishop of Spokane, five new parishes have been established in the city and three in areas outside the city. A half-million dollar retreat house has been built southeast of Spokane and a new parochial high school is under construction in Walla Walla.

Bishop Topel received a B. A. degree from Mount St. Charles College, now Carroll College, in 1923. He earned a master's degree in education and a bachelor of sacred theology degree from Catholic University of America in 1927. He was ordained a priest in Helena the same year. He also holds an M. A. degree in mathematics from Harvard University and a Ph. D. in mathematics from Notre Dame University, where he taught for a year.

As an undergraduate, he played football and basketball and was active in drama and debate. At Notre Dame he studied mathematics under Karl Menger, formerly of

(more)

the University of Vienna; and Emile Autin and Kurt Goedel, both now working at the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton.

Bishop Topel has published several papers on mathematical research in professional journals. He was president of the Montana Academy of Science in 1944, the year that he also became director of vocations for the Helena Diocese.

The bishop was born in Bozeman, where his father, the late Henry A. Topel, operated a clothing store for many years. His mother now lives in Missoula.

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