

BISHOP KEARNEY

A Biographical Sketch

His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, D. D. came to take charge of the Diocese of Rochester on Nov. 10, 1937. His arrival here, after a long and successful career in the New York Central station, is the first time that he has been in Rochester since he was born in 1866.

As the prelate appeared on the station balcony he was given spontaneous and prolonged applause. Diocesan officials, civic leaders and a great throng of the faithful had come to welcome Bishop Kearney to Rochester.

His appreciative message to them was "God bless you all, God bless Rochester, God bless the sovereign state of New York."

From the time of the announcement of August 3 following the installation of the Most Rev. Edward Mooney as Archbishop of Detroit that His Holiness, Pope Pius XI had translated Bishop Kearney from the See of Salt Lake to the See of Rochester, diocesan eagerly awaited his coming.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart, Administrator of the Diocese of Rochester, welcomed the new Ordinary in the brilliantly lighted railroad station and said:

"You come to be a leader of the religious and civic life of the community. You come to direct the forces of religion that mean so much to our commonwealth. You come to build more stately mansions on the foundations so firmly laid by early men of God in this region."

The civic welcome was extended by Mayor Charles Stanton. Governor Herbert H. Lehman was represented by B. Emmet Finucane.

Deeply touched, Bishop Kearney in his humble manner told the vast throng:

"As James E. Kearney my arrival would mean little. But I have come in the name of God, and the only reason you have assembled here tonight is to pay tribute to me as the representative of religion."

"When we consider the reception a man in my position would have received in many European countries, I can only say how happy I am to find this American spirit in a gathering like this to pay tribute to an Ambassador of Christ."

Bishop Kearney attributed his "tremendous welcome" to the faith in God held by the people of Rochester. "I hope my administration will prove worthy of the reception you have given me."

The humility, simplicity and kindness demonstrated by the new Shepherd of the flock won him the friendship of all which has heightened on the days since his memorable welcome have passed these years.

The Most Rev. James E. Kearney was born 66 years ago on Oct. 26, 1866, at Red Oak, Iowa, in the Diocese of Des Moines, the son of William Patrick Kearney and Rosina O'Donnell Kearney, who were natives of Ireland.

When but a small boy of two years his parents took him to New York City.

Completing preliminary studies he went to the Teachers College from 1901 to 1903, secured a

license from the city of New York and taught in Public School 25 of that city from Feb. 2, 1903, to June of that year. He then entered St. Joseph's Seminary Dunwoody upon completing his work at St. Joseph's Seminary, the future Bishop, was ordained to the Holy Priesthood, September 19, 1908 and then spent a year in post graduate work at the Catholic University of America.

The first assignment after ordination was as assistant pastor of St. Cecilia's Church in New York where he served from 1909 to 1923 and in the latter year founded and became pastor of the Church of St. Francis Xavier in the Bronx where he remained three years.

During some of these years he lectured at Our Lady of Good Counsel College at White Plains, N. Y., where he was professor of apologetics and he also served as superintendent of Catholic schools in the Bronx.

Another of the great events of his life came on October 28, 1932 when he was consecrated to the episcopacy by his near and dear friend, the late Patrick Cardinal Hayes, Archbishop of New York, as the Bishop of the See of Salt Lake.

The occasion was memorable and joyous because the day marked his mother's birthday, his own birthday and the anniversary of the consecration of Cardinal Hayes.

The See of Salt Lake was one of the smallest in the country at that time. There were only 10,000 communicants in its churches, less than the number who joined in the welcome at the railroad station here, and 33 priests to carry on the work in 33 churches.

As in all missionary territory, funds were low.

Bishop Kearney entered upon his new work with the zeal and understanding leadership which the people of the Diocese of Rochester have since come to appreciate.

The Bishop was signally successful there in winning and retaining the loyal cooperation of others and made steady progress in developing churches, schools and charitable works of the diocese.

The slender resources available for this work were added to and from mission funds in New York City. In November 1936 Bishop Kearney paid off the last debt of the Cathedral of the Madonna and consecrated it on Thanksgiving Day, 1937.

The most momentous event in the life of Bishop Kearney came when he was elected to attend the installation of the Most Rev. Edward Mooney as Archbishop of Detroit. Archbishop Mooney had been translated from the Diocese of Rochester after four fruitful years as Bishop of this See.

His successor, and not being named up to the date of his installation in Detroit in August, 1937. When the announcement was made by His Excellency, the Most Rev. Anselmo Gavanini Ciccognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States of the appointment of Bishop Kearney, the many prelates in attendance at the installation rites were first to congratulate him.

Asked by the press for a statement, Bishop Kearney said:



St. Michael's Parish—After celebrating a Solemn Pontifical Mass, His Excellency, Bishop Kearney is shown here imparting the episcopal blessing to parishioners, as the golden anniversary of the parish is marked.



Catholic Educators—Shown here with His Excellency, Bishop Kearney are Rev. Edward V. Stanford, O.S.A., President of Villanova; Rev. Hugh O'Donnell, C.S.C., President of Notre Dame; Rev. Joseph M. Noonan, C.M., President of Niagara, discussing the future of Catholic Education.

"I am very much delighted with the appointment, with the honor and with the confidence manifested by the Holy See."

"My only hope is to be a worthy successor of the outstanding group of prelates who have conferred such honor upon the See. To that end I humbly solicit the prayers of the priests, the religious and my good people of the See of Rochester."

It was on Ascension Day, 1937, following the historic welcome given at the station, that the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, D. D. was solemnly enthroned as Fifth Bishop of Rochester in the appropriately decorated Pro-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

Archbishops, Bishops, Monsignors, priests, members of religious orders, representatives of the various Sisterhoods, uniformed Knights of Columbus and Knights

two of his predecessors here, Archbishop Hickey and Archbishop Mooney among them, and the 26 Bishops and scores of Monsignors and priests, in his sermon, Bishop Kearney said:

"The respectful tribute of those outside my faith represents a tribute of respect and honor which a consistent follower of the lowly and holy Christ should tremble to accept were he not conscious that the tribute comes to the high and holy office which he today assumes as the Ambassador of Christ in this community."

Bishop Kearney said that the expression of thanks and appreciation "which my lips are eager to express at this time for all of you I must withhold for a more hallowed moment. At my first Mass in the See of Rochester, I shall speak to the Sacred Heart of my Master for all of you."

Speaking of the impression made by the tremendous interest shown in his arrival here, the Bishop said:

"It was not at all exclusively a Catholic interest, but people of all creeds and faiths have shown their interest to make me feel at home. I think this is indicative of a very definite religious sense in this community."

As in Salt Lake, so in Rochester, Bishop Kearney has won the friendship and esteem of his own flock and of those of other faiths.

The story of what has taken place here during the first three years of his reign is outlined elsewhere in this Diocesan Review and Calendar.

Bishop Kearney had had a long personal acquaintance with the present Supreme Pontiff Pope Pius XII.

When in Utah on his visit to the United States, the then Eugenic Cardinal Pacelli, Papal Secretary of State met with Bishop Kearney in Salt Lake.

When he became the 202nd Pope to sit on the throne of St. Peter's, Bishop Kearney said of him from personal acquaintance:

"Pope Pius XII is a very holy man of deep, personal piety, a man of wide experience and knowledge of diplomatic matters and a man highly capable of handling the difficult problems of the present Pontificate."

The advancement of Catholic lay societies is uppermost in the mind of Bishop Kearney and on all occasions he gives freely of his time and talents in promoting the work of both men, women and children's groups.

For many years he has taken an active and influential part in the affairs of the Knights of Columbus and this year accepted the State Chaplaincy of the New York State Council. He was Fulfillment: Friar of the Archbishop Hughes Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, the patriotic section of the order, and this year will participate in the exemplification of the Fourth Degree on May 4 in Rochester. He has kindly allowed his name to be used in increasing the membership of many of the organizations.

He is a vital force in every organization of the Diocese of Rochester to which his energies are constantly devoted, one after the other, as he follows out his motto, "In Te Domine Speravi." "In Thee O Lord have I placed my hope."

Then he acknowledged the presence of the four Archbishops —

THE END

BISHOP KEARNEY

A Prediction for the Future

The year of 1941 A. D. unfolds in the Diocese of Rochester as one that will go down in history for the monumental works, both spiritually and materially, which will have been accomplished.

Brick, mortar and steel are being fashioned into new churches, new schools and new institutions which will provide for expansion of the wide range of Catholic devotion, Catholic charity and Catholic education for which this diocese has already become widely known.

In West Elmira, the new church edifice of Our Lady of Lourdes is under construction and its completion is eagerly awaited by the parishioners of that newly formed parish.

For the advanced education of young Catholic women, a well-designed and greater Nazareth College is being built at Pittsford. St. Mary's Hospital which is about to have a greatly needed and modernly equipped new hospital building on its Geneva St. site.

A new auditorium and gymnasium for the rapidly increasing demands at Our Lady of Mercy High School conducted by the Sisters of Mercy on Blossom Road is nearing completion.

The care of dependent children, housed in antiquated St. Mary's and St. Patrick Homes will be developed amid new surroundings on the Clark farm where will be erected the modern cottage homes designed to afford the proper housing and training of these children.

New headquarters for Catholic students attending Cornell University are being planned.

The record for building in this diocese had its beginning with the great Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, first Bishop of Rochester. His vision, his indomitable will provided the institutions needed in the pioneer days to launch the spiritual works of the diocese.

Upon his foundations, the saintly Archbishop Thomas F. Hickey, the kindly Bishop John Francis O'Brien, the scholarly and efficient Archbishop Edward Mooney carried on expanding the diocesan program, building for the salvation of souls.

Now another great builder, His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, D. D., Bishop of Rochester during this year of Our Lord, 1941 will direct and inspire the building program which will go down in diocesan annals for its extent and achievement.

The new material construction which is being brought about under the Bishop's guidance this year will be greatly needed to advance the work of Holy Mother the Church in providing the necessary facilities for practicing our Holy Faith; in providing the care so needed for the unfortunate of all ages, in developing sound Christian education of youth, in providing safeguards in an age rampant with paganism.

The heritage of the Diocese of Rochester is continued and persevering effort for the advancement of Christian Doctrine will be put forth.

This year, we are now in, gives promise of innumerable events which will stimulate Catholic practice and increase devotion under persevering leadership and motivated by the Church's highest ideals.



'A Greater Nazareth' will rise on this spot as His Excellency, Bishop Kearney turns the first spadeful of dirt near the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Pittsford. With the Bishop are the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William F. Bergan and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Shay.



Bishop Kearney is shown here in informal pose as he reads the CATHOLIC COURIER, official newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester, which will be invaluable to the Bishop as he carries out his episcopal plans for the future.

Among memorable events scheduled for this year will be the many plan to attend the National Golden Jubilee of the laying of the cornerstone of St. Bernard's in St. Paul, Minn.

To develop this interest in an especial manner the first diocesan Eucharistic Congress is scheduled for this Fall. In all churches throughout the diocese, services will be carried out to which the faithful will be attracted with the same spirit as those who attended the St. Paul Congress.

Upon the invitation of His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, thousands of fervent young Catholic people will come from all sections of the United States in June. The event will be the Catholic Students Mission Crusade. The zeal for the Catholic missions everywhere, both at home and abroad, to be manifested by these young people will spread throughout the communities in the entire diocese.

Interest will be stimulated here in paying special homage to

Bishop, priests, Sisters and people will unite to increase devotion, to keep uppermost in the minds of all, the ultimate goal of earthly existence. In the material field will go on the work of providing those necessary structures for carrying on activity to develop good Catholics which will result in good citizens ready to serve their country when the time comes.

Interest of all dioceses is centered in the construction of Nazareth College for Women at Pittsford. The great number who generously gave to the Campaign for the college did so with this diocese would have a suitable institution of higher learning for the young women who leave our high schools.

With ground broken by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, construction is well along on the first of three units which when completed will be another monument in the 32 years of devoted and self-sacrificing work of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the field of Catholic education.

The college building, now under construction will comprise the administration offices and classrooms, with study rooms and a capacity of 750 students.

Another building will contain the auditorium on the first floor with stage and a gymnasium and cafeteria will be located on the ground floor.

The third building will be a dormitory with lounges, a kitchen and other facilities that will be required in providing a modern college home for students.

Frank M. Quilan is architect of the designs which in material and in design will harmonize with the Motherhouses.

Erection of the complete new St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester will be another event of unusual interest during this year to everyone in the diocese.

For 82 years St. Mary's has been carrying on its spiritual and corporal works of mercy — during recent years in buildings that are aged and inadequate for the demands made.

The new hospital will be of five stories and ground floor, equipped for medical surgical and maternity cases with 300 beds and 50 bassinets.

Joseph P. Flynn is the architect. The building will be erected on the site adjoining the present hospital and Nurses Home and will be of reinforced concrete with the exterior of brick.

St. Mary's Hospital has a long and brilliant record of service. With the new hospital to be provided with every scientific facility for the care of the sick it will continue its battle against the human misfortunes of illness and provide the spiritual consolation so necessary in combating such misfortunes.

The four-story addition to the plant of Our Lady of Mercy High School being built at a cost of \$350,000 is fast nearing completion. Built of brick it will contain the equivalent of 12 classrooms, including a home economics room, art room, orchestra room, nurses' and doctor's room and counselors' room.

There will be an auditorium with a seating capacity of 1130, a gymnasium that will be ample and contain equipment for carrying on physical education requirements.

The building will double the capacity of this school which has had rapid growth since it was opened in 1928.

With each year passing it is anticipated that the school's development exercises will be held in the new auditorium in June and that it will be completely ready in the fall.

Leo J. Rhoads is architect for the new auditorium.

Plans are not complete for the building of a center for Catholic students at Cornell University. This is one of the projects to be developed during the year.

Another important building development will be the construction of cottage homes on the George H. Clark farm in Dewey Avenue which was purchased by the Diocese of Rochester, Dec. 2, 1937.

The opportunity for establishing the children of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Homes and those of the former St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum in homes on the farm came nearer last year as the site of the first two institutions in Main St. West and Clifton St. was sold for use of a department store and gasoline station. In the country location, the advantages of building up to the standard of modern child care will be provided the dependent children.

With the establishment of the new Our Lady of Lourdes parish in West Elmira by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney and the appointment of the Rev. Leo G. Schwab as pastor, steps were taken to erect a new church.

Plans were made for a beautiful chapel of some of the English type of architecture having 600 worshippers and having an assembly hall and basement. Hanswell and Condit are the architects.

Another new parish which will make progress this year is St. Helen's on Bishop's Road, formerly the mission of St. Augustine's. It is being named pastor by Bishop Kearney, the Rev. John Boeckler, S.O.B., is ministering to the rapidly growing parish in that section of the diocese.

In the newly created parish of St. Mary Magdalen in Wolcott, a well-appointed new church has been dedicated and under the leadership of the Rev. J. Norman Margaret as pastor, the parish is going forward in this new year.

A new church recently dedicated for St. Paul of the Cross parish in Honeyey Falls is increasing the devotion in that parish.

One of the cherished dreams of the Rev. Joseph A. Cirrione, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, a recreation center for children of the neighborhood is about to be realized. The structure will be dedicated by His Excellency Bishop Kearney on March 9 when the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Flanagan, the famous "Father Flanagan of Boys' Town," comes here to speak.

Built by voluntary labor from plans prepared by Frank M. Quilan, architect, the building with the second floor to be used for an auditorium and the first floor for handball courts and offices, will provide a suitable center for the children.

These and other building projects in process of being planned assure the year 1941 of being a period of continued progress in the Diocese of Rochester.

THE END