

A Call to Action . . .



An Open Letter from Bishop Kearney

THESE are troubled times. Wherever we look, near at hand or far off, we see old problems lingering and new problems arising. War clouds have loomed ominously above the social and economic difficulties which have continued to confront us. Surely it is our duty under these conditions to seek ways and means whereby our attention can be concentrated on the constructive solution of those problems which lie nearest to us, and which affect us most directly. Surely it is well to stimulate a more hopeful and productive outlook among the people of the community!

MORE OPTIMISM in our viewpoint and in our habits of thinking is not only desirable, it is actually a necessity. The depression years have tended to develop reactions to the business of living which are tinged with pessimism. And, within recent months, fear has taken a new hold on too large a part of our daily thoughts. Much that we fear cannot happen,—unless we bring it about through fear! To follow a fearful way of living can only lead to paralysis of all the forces which work for the common good. Fear can only multiply our business, and social, and economic problems!

LET US BREAK with the past! Let us look forward so that we may GO FORWARD! Let us pick up the tools which lie ready to hand and begin building that better future which we all want and need. Let us look at the facts and then act, courageously and in concert, to realize the bright possibilities to which those facts surely point!

HERE ARE a few of the facts. Unemployment is a major problem, the solution for which lies in developing more buying as a stimulus to productive industries. Buying power has been somewhat impaired under recent depressed conditions, but the majority of our people are still able to buy normally. A definite step toward the re-employment of the unemployed would develop from releasing the full, normal buying power of the community. That release can come only if we work to remove uncertainties engendered by fear.

I PROPOSE TO THE COMMUNITY that all of our constructive forces be marshalled in a cooperative endeavor to remove fear, and the causes of fear, from the minds of the people. Let our civic, business, and social groups join in a common endeavor for the common good. We can stimulate confidence and restore prosperity in the Rochester Area by using to the full our assets of human courage and goodwill combined with the resources for business productivity with which our community is so fully equipped.

TO THAT END I urge all our Catholic people, individually and as members of various groups and societies, to pledge their goodwill and aid in the cooperative endeavor which I have here proposed.

BACK THIS ENDEAVOR with your interest, with your effort, with your optimism, and it will return dividends in renewed confidence, prosperity, and faith.

+ James E. Kearney

BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

Your Co-operation Is Necessary

to the success of the civic movement proposed in Bishop Kearney's "Open Letter." Turn now to Page One and read the details of the "Community Plan" which is presented to the civic and business leaders of your city.

"Help People to Help Themselves!"