

The Churches of the Diocese of Rochester

An Editorial Tribute



"We need material temples of stone and lime and wood or metal in which to foregather for the social and community worship, of that God Whom we know all the time that no temple can contain since His Presence fills the heaven and the earth."—BISHOP KEARNEY.

THE HOUSE OF GOD—whatever shape or form it may take as the center of Catholic parish life—represents the accumulation of years of effort, of devotion and of sacrifice on the part of a zealous pastor and his loyal people. For fifty years, the Catholic Courier has to the limits of its capabilities and equipment served the priests and parishioners of the Rochester Diocese. The church edifice being the heart and core of parish life, it is with pride that the Catholic Courier presents on the following pages a complete record of the church buildings in this diocese.

When a new church building was contemplated and plans made known, the diocesan newspaper carried the story not only to readers in that parish but to fellow Catholics throughout the diocese.

Proudly, and as a matter of diocesan record, the Catholic newspaper told the story of the breaking of ground by the reigning Bishop, and later of the beautiful liturgical services conducted by His Excellency in marking the dedication.

From the time Holy Mass was first celebrated in the completed edifice, down through the years, the Catholic Courier staff has bent every effort towards advancing by the printed word the beautiful Catholic life fostered within the four walls of "the new church."

Now the Catholic Courier passes the milestone of fifty years. Short this is in the history of Holy Mother Church but those fifty years are filled with the achievements of those who sacrificed that these churches might be built, and worked,—pastors and people—in harmonious cooperation to carry out the purpose for which they were built.

These pictures of the churches in the Diocese are published for our Catholic people with the

hope that they may be better informed of the ever-growing strength of their Faith, and also so that they and their children may understand more about the extent and importance of "The Diocese of Rochester."

To those pastors whose generous cooperation made possible the success of this outstanding presentation, we extend our most sincere thanks.

Thanks are also due those pastors who were heartily in accord with this project but who, because of circumstances, found it impossible financially to share. We know that they, too, are praying for a successful Golden Jubilee Year for their diocesan newspaper.

With the inspiration afforded by fifty years' service, with a realization of what is needed in a diocesan newspaper to interest, and to inspire, with a determined policy to support and promote diocesan programs of which these churches represent a foremost part, the Catholic Courier goes forward into the the future confident of greater progress, ever mindful of its great responsibility to be ever watchful over "The House of God."

RT. REV. MSGR. WILLIAM M. HART, V.G.

In the following fifteen pages the Catholic Courier presents an exclusive pictorial record of THE CHURCHES OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER. This is the first occasion in the history of the diocese when pictures of all of these structures have been published in such a grouping, and the first time in a quarter-century that any presentation of a comparable nature has been made. Space limitations made necessary the omission of chapels and missions, with a few necessary exceptions, but the record is otherwise complete. All of the photographs reproduced herein were taken expressly for this edition, and have not heretofore appeared elsewhere.