

# Diocesan Review and Annual Calendarium

1940

Number 12

Supplement to the  
Catholic CourierTHE NEWSPAPER  
of the Rochester Diocese

1941

Volume XIII

## BISHOP KEARNEY

### A Review of His Episcopate

Now entering upon his fourth year as Ordinary of the Diocese of Rochester, His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, D.D., can look back on three fruitful years of administration, guidance and leadership. His Excellency was installed as Fifth Bishop of Rochester in Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral on Nov. 11, 1937.

A review of those three years can only touch the highlights because of the extensive range of the Bishop's activities. The historian will have a Herculean task recording each and every event in which the Bishop has been a leading figure, the number of persons with whom he has come in contact in those three years has been legion.

As Shepherd of his flock, he has kept constantly in touch with all, vigorously but kindly stimulating them to live the Catholic life to the full. Justice, charity, education, patriotism, all motivated by religious fervor, and deep spirituality are discernible in the works thus far achieved in his administration.

This review touches only upon the period from November 11, 1927 to Nov. 11, 1940, the first three years of Bishop Kearney's episcopacy in the Rochester See. The 1941 record is being written in daily activity and will provide an even more remarkable record of His Excellency's achievements.

During the three year period, Bishop Kearney administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a total of 20,074 children and adults with 1,692 converts among them.

Shortly after Bishop Kearney's arrival in Rochester, the George

H. Clark farm of 80 acres was purchased on Dec. 2, 1937 to be used as the future home for dependent children of St. Patrick's and St. Mary's Homes in specially designed cottages for their care.

A beautiful and impressive Nativity Spectacle in the Pro-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart was instituted by Bishop Kearney which has each year been attended by a growing number of the faithful.

At the beginning of 1928, His Excellency instituted the New Year's Day reception for the laity at the episcopal residence, 947 East Avenue. Hundreds of men, women and children of all faiths call to greet and be greeted by the Bishop, on New Year's Day.

Approval of the diocesan newspaper came with this message in February: "A Catholic newspaper has become an essential part of every Catholic home in the diocese." "Let us have a brief slogan: 'The Catholic Courier in every Catholic home.'"

The Rev. John F. Muckle of St. Thomas Church, Irondequoit was appointed to lead the diocesan Eucharistic Pilgrimage to Budapest.

Speaking at St. Mary's Church, Auburn, at a Solemn Ceremony marking completion of the church's redecoration, the Bishop

"May it be a fortress of civic peace and harmony, an index of all high and noble aspirations, a fountain of spirituality, a school of Christian life, a glowing hearth of marital love and esteem."

The review of Bishop Kearney's three year, unfolds as follows:

The Rochester Police Holy Name Society was formed, first of its kind in the diocese. Addressed the first Communion breakfast.

Gave full support to the National Campaign for Decent Literature and launched a diocesan-wide campaign entrusting the project to the Rochester Diocesan Holy Name Union with this admonition:

"As the heads of families trying to bring up their children with decent minds and clean hearts, they will welcome the effort to wipe out as far as possible one of the most insidious evils of our day."

Dedicated on May 27, 1938 a 560 year old statue of the Madonna presented 12 years previous to St. Michael's Church, Lyons by Myron C. Taylor, later to become the President's personal representative to the Vatican.

Ordained seven young men for the Holy Priesthood in Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral, June 11, 1938.

Received Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from Niagara University.

Celebrated Solemn Pontifical Mass in Church of the Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, June 12, 1938 commemorating the installation of three beautiful altars. Told the congregation: "This Church is your representative of Christ on earth. 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life' is Christ's own description of what he wanted His Church to be to carry on His work. The beauty of His house is a congregation's best contribution to Him and the Holy Trinity."

On June 28, 1928, dedicated the Chapel of St. John Bosco — the first in any penal institution in

the state — in honor of this Saint, the patron of wayward youth.

Gave approval to the organization of a Rochester Chapter of the Blackfriars Guild, the purpose of which is to advance the Catholic theater.

Officiated on July 3, 1938 at Solemn Pontifical Mass marking the Diamond Jubilee of Holy Cross Church and the Silver Sacrosotal Jubilee of the Rev. Alexander J. McCabe, pastor.

Honored on a return visit to his former Salt Lake See by the diocesan clergy. "Esteemed Bishop Returns" was the title of an editorial in the Salt Lake Telegram.

Delivered sermon at the children's requiem in St. Patrick's Cathedral for His Eminence Patrick Cardinal Hayes and took part in the solemn funeral services for the Cardinal.

Declaring that "a classroom atmosphere which is not religious, is extremely dangerous," issued in September, 1938, a letter to parents of the children in public schools appealing to them to comply with their pastor's plans and to discharge their duties in regard to their children's religious instructions."

Dedicated the newly reconstructed St. Charles Borromeo School on Sept. 11, 1938.

To invoke Divine's assistance

in averting the war's consequences called upon the faithful to attend in large numbers the Rosary devotions during October.

Upholding the merit of Catholic education and stressing its superiority, dedicated the new wing of Sacred Heart Academy, Sept. 30, 1938.

Announced a Community Plan for a "cooperative endeavor to remove fear and the causes of fear from the minds of the people," advocating increased saving, to stimulate general business."

Addressing regional conference banquet of National Laymen's Retreat League, said:

"As you gather here you are emphasizing a message significant to the world. It is that man should retire periodically from active affairs and get into communion with Jesus Christ by means of a retreat."

Denying the "wild orgy of religious persecution which has reached a climax," in latest Nazi acts against the Jews in Germany, addressed 3,000 Rochesterians of all denominations in Convention Hall mass meeting.

Saying "better times await the coming of better men and women; we dare not sit idly by and allow our young people to deteriorate," gave a forceful answer to "The Parochial School, Is It Necessary?" in address to the City Club on Dec. 17, 1938.

Early in 1939, Bishop Kearney joined with the Most Rev. Walter A. Foery, Bishop of Syracuse in celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Corpus Christi parish.

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CATHOLIC COURIER Staff Photo

**CDA Conference**—Pictured with His Excellency, Bishop Kearney are Miss Katherine Rossney, Miss Mary C. Duffy and Mrs. Anna I. Lucid as they discussed problems of the Catholic Daughters of America.



CATHOLIC COURIER Staff Photo

**St. Stanislaus Parish**—Blessing the parishioners as he passes by, His Excellency Bishop Kearney approaches the beautifully decorated altar to celebrate a Solemn Pontifical Mass. The occasion is the fiftieth anniversary of the parish.