

## Jubilee Tribute To Bishop Kearney

Here is the text of the jubilee sermon delivered by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William F. Bergan, P.A., Chancellor of the Rochester Diocese, at the Pro-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Tuesday during the Solemn Pontifical Mass marking the tenth anniversary of the installation of the Most Rev. James Edward Kearney, D.D., as fifth Bishop of Rochester.

BY THE RT. REV. MSGR. WILLIAM F. BERGAN, P.A.  
Chancellor of the Rochester Diocese

May it please Your Excellency, the Most Reverend Bishop of Rochester—Right Reverend and Very Reverend Monsignori—Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers—Dear Sisters, and Beloved Laity in Christ.

When the great St. Vincent de Paul started out from his father's house to commence his studies for the priesthood, it is narrated that Vincent's father and a few relatives accompanied him along the road. When they came to the crossroads, one of which was to lead Vincent to the city where the seminary was located, the boy took an affectionate leave of his father, and proceeded on his journey, alone. We are told that the father of Vincent de Paul turned to the group about him and said, "I know that my boy, Vincent, will be a good priest because he has a kind heart."

If we may be allowed to borrow the words of Vincent de Paul's father, I think that they can be fittingly applied to our own Bishop, who because of the great kindness and generosity of his heart, has proved himself to be an excellent priest and lovable Bishop.

Ten years ago today in this Cathedral most of us saw for the first time the Bishop whom the Holy Father had sent to rule the Diocese of Rochester. Unknown, he had come to us from the distant diocese of Salt Lake City, but swiftly by his magnetic personality, by his great genius in drawing himself close to his people, by his untiring zeal in going about the diocese performing his spiritual labors, never sparing himself from appearing at every possible function connected with parish life, he captured our hearts, and endeared himself to us. He hurried from one end of the diocese to the other, making himself available for every phase of religious activity.

He became so reckless and prodigal in his labors that we of lesser courage, and smaller generosity of soul thought at times that he was being imposed upon, and was spending himself needlessly. His kind, generous heart refused to recognize any limits of physical endurance when he felt that his presence as Bishop would aid any cause for the good of religion and of the Church.

In the years that Bishop Kearney has been with us, the spiritual life of the diocese has been vitalized and energized by his incessant encouragement of spiritual devotions of every nature. Again and again priests and people have been exhorted through his communications to make strong the temple of faith within our soul. His personal attendance at so many of these spiritual activities has lent to them the encouragement, the leadership, the inspiration of his office as Bishop of this diocese.

The world disasters of the past several years have thwarted greatly the material expansion of religion in this diocese. Yet notwithstanding all the obstacles, great things have been accomplished, and others are in the making.

Making of our churches have been beautified and set in order. Nazareth College for Women has been built. St. Mary's Hospital is numbered among our great institutions in the city. A campaign to construct a new St. Andrew's Seminary has been successfully carried out. Within the past few weeks plans for a college for men, have been presented to the people of this diocese.

We cite these things, so well known to you, simply to illustrate further that there has been no activity spiritual (Continued on Page 7-A)

### A CHAPLAIN'S RESPECTS



The Rev. Bernard C. Hanna, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Macedon, is shown kissing Bishop Kearney's episcopal ring at a ceremony in Rochester's Red Wing Stadium in October, 1946, when citations were given to 34 diocesan chaplains during a Holy Name rally.

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## Fifth Shepherd of Rochester Diocese Ministers to Flock



## Bishop Kearney — A Man of Action

By the RT. REV. MSGR. WILLIAM M. HART, P.A.  
Vicar General of the Rochester Diocese

Who ever found him otherwise? Otherwise than in action? Kipling wrote—"East is East and West is West, And never the twain shall meet." Born in the West, he went East to New York City, scene of his early career. Again he went West to become Bishop of Rochester.

He was in action in the Archdiocese of New York in parish work, in school management, and finally as Pastor of a new parish, before becoming Bishop. He has continued a life of activity all through the fifteen years of his episcopate. So that we think it right to title our article as "Bishop Kearney in action."

His interests have been with people of all ages, all faiths, all nationalities. With the little children, even with the babies, Bishop Kearney has a way with him. Often do we see the solemnity of a religious procession interrupted that a babe in arms may receive the friendly salute and the blessing of Bishop Kearney. And a doting father carries home with him a memory to treasure through the years.

Or see the tots of three or four, crowding about him with no sense of reverence for his episcopal dignity, but with a sincere realization of his lovable and loving nature. Witness the little girl that climbed up on his shoulder to see what kind of a "beany" he had on his head.

With the school children he has been entirely at home, seizing any opportunity that offers to visit their classrooms, to give a word of encouragement to pupil and Sister.

The diocese has high schools in each of its larger cities besides the five in Rochester. Every opening session in the fall has found Bishop Kearney celebrating the Mass of the Holy Ghost for each school, giving an inspiring and encouraging sermon to the pupils, imparting his episcopal blessings.

Every pupil is moved by the evident sincerity of the interest their Bishop takes in them. Feast days, anniversary

classes, class days, find the Bishop frequently visiting the High Schools. His thoughts, his sympathy, his love, is with the Catholic school as it carries on its glorious tradition of religious education.

Where do we find Bishop Kearney more in action than in June when graduations are in order? It is a busy time, but everything so arranged that the Bishop can preside at the happy commencements that mark each High School. Imitating the God to whom these graduates are so dear, his delight is to be with the children of men.

Childhood and youth are an intimate part of the life of our Bishop. In confirmations, graduations, school observances, he meets and makes friends of the many thousands of little ones who are his subjects, and who feel a personal paternal spirit emanating from him.

The older generation find in their Bishop a man of action, of Catholic Action. Their society meetings, conventions, dinners find him not just an honored guest, but one of their number, an active and interested member. There is an air of informality about the Bishop when he has opportunity to meet and chat with Catholic men and women after the formal part of any program has been finished.

Reverential fear gives way to filial confidence as the warm spirit of a true Father in Christ awakens in all a desire to draw near, to know and be known. A memory for faces and persons keeps alive these friendships, and the Bishop can call thousands in every part of his diocese by their first names. Public functions find him mingling with community leaders, many of them not of the faith, on terms of abiding respect and true friendship. The annual reception at his home at the New Years season is just one event that summons together a real army of those who know and love the Bishop.

Bishop Kearney is a man of action in maintaining contacts of his priestly days and of the years of his service as a Bishop. Educational events in New York still call for his presence, liturgical functions find him present.

After ten years, Salt Lake City could easily be just a memory of what once was: but from its Bishop down to

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## Bishop Kearney's 1937 Installation Recalled on Jubilee

Ten years as Bishop of Rochester in the arrival here reached this week by His Excellency James E. Kearney whose tireless efforts and notable achievements for the Church have highlighted the past decade in this historic American Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

In a decade marked by his untiring efforts and outstanding achievements for the Church, Bishop Kearney has become a figure beloved and esteemed throughout the length and breadth of his episcopal diocese.

Today, Catholics and non-Catholics alike hail the Bishop of Rochester as an indispensable leader in the civic and religious life of the city and the entire diocese.

It was ten years ago, in the early evening of November 10, 1937, that Bishop Kearney first entered the New City of Rochester to take over as Chief Shepherd of the diocese, 230,000 souls. He had come from the far western State of Utah where he had served for five years as Bishop of the Diocese of Salt Lake City.

Greeting him on his arrival at Rochester's Holy Trinity Central Station were church and civic officials and a cheering throng of 12,000 people.

The crowd took the "new bishop" to his heart's content. It liked his tall and vigorous appearance. It liked his friendly and ready smile.

He listened appreciatively to the official welcome expressed by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart, administrator of the diocese. Said Monsignor Hart:

"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."

To this message of welcome and another by Monsignor Stanislaus, Bishop Kearney responded:

"As James E. Kearney may arrive upon earth, I have come in the name of God, and the only reason I have assembled here tonight is to pay tribute to me as a representative of religion."

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

Leading the "triumphant welcome" accorded him as expression of the faith of the people of the diocese, Bishop Kearney concluded: "I hope my administration will prove worthy of the reception you have given me."

On Armistice Day (November 11), 1937, following the impressive welcome at the station, Bishop Kearney formally and solemnly installed as fifth Bishop of Rochester and brilliant ceremonies conducted at the Pro-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

The occasion, one of the greatest in the religious history of the diocese, included four archbishops, four bishops, scores of priests, religious, and representatives of the various sisterhoods.

Present from the far west were Archbishop John J. Mitty of San Francisco, Bishop Kearney's predecessor in the See of Salt Lake City, and also Archbishop John J. Cantwell of Los Angeles.

A unique feature was the presence of two of Bishop Kearney's predecessors in the See of Rochester. These were Archbishop Edward Mooney of Detroit, fourth Bishop of Rochester and Bishop Kearney's immediate predecessor, and Archbishop Thomas F. Hickey, titular Archbishop of Philadelphia and second Bishop of Rochester.

Representing the civic and professional ranks of people were members of distinguished lay personages headed by Governor Herbert H. Lehman and Mayor Charles Stanton.

Bishop Kearney was conducted to his throne in the cathedral sanctuary by the Most Rev. Stephen J. Donahue.

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### BISHOP MEETS A 'DELEGATE'



Typical of the affection for Bishop Kearney is the devotion of the young people. Here a delegate of the eighth annual Congress of the Holy Name Society, in 1946, is seen with Bishop Kearney.