

New Seminary Building Fund Raised by Diocesan-Wide Campaign

Priests and people of Rochester Diocese pledged \$856,000 for the new seminary building in a campaign to assure realization of the long-needed new St. Andrew's Seminary building to be dedicated in Rochester on Sept. 30.

In one of the most spirited and successful fund-raising campaigns in diocesan history, more than 6,000 workers solicited contributions from nearly 60,000 persons. It was an overwhelming evidence of the interest of diocesan Catholics in supporting their minor seminary — the "cradle of priestly vocations."

Announcement of the proposed campaign for \$500,000 was made by His Excellency Bishop Kearney on Sept. 25, 1946, at a dinner for the clergy marking the Diamond Jubilee of the Seminary.

Need for a new building had been evident since 1937. Proper operation of the seminary is difficult because of the crowding of school, faculty house and dormitory. The school was the former old Cathedral High School, Plymouth Avenue North; the culty house was located several blocks away at 321 Lake Avenue, and the dormitory for town students was situated at the Buffalo Road site.

When Bishop Kearney set the fund-raising campaign dates from Feb. 7 to Feb. 22, 1946, he named the following to the campaign advisory committee:

The late Rt. Rev. Msgr. William F. Bergan, then chancellor of the diocese and pastor of St. Monica's Church; Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. Goggin, then rector, now rector emeritus of St. Bernard's Major Seminary; the late Very Rev. Msgr. Edward M. Lyons, rector of St. Andrew's Seminary; Rev. Francis W. Luddy, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, former rector of St. Andrew's; Rev. Walter J. Kohl, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Church, Watkins Glen, formerly of St. Andrew's faculty; Rev. Dr. Charles J. Mahoney, diocesan superintendent of schools; the now Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, managing editor of the Catholic Courier Journal and diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Two Bishops — His Excellency Bishop Kearney and the Most Rev. Walter A. Foery, Bishop of Syracuse and a 1916 alumnus of St. Bernard's Seminary — addressed the opening campaign dinner Feb. 7, 1946.

More than 2,100 persons from all parts of the diocese attended — the largest crowd which ever had assembled in

the city for a fund-raising dinner. The crowd overflowed the Chamber of Commerce building, necessitating the taking over of the assembly room, and Victorian room at the Sheraton Hotel, several blocks away. The Bishops visited campaigners in both places, and their words were carried from the Chamber to the Sheraton through special telephone equipment.

Monsignor Randall, campaign director, and Harold J. Coleman, general drive chairman, directed procedure of collection in which the diocese was divided into 23 zones each with a priest-director.

A record crowd of 3,000 jammed the Chamber building for the final report meeting Feb. 22, when the \$856,000 grand total for the 15-day drive was announced. Parish after parish throughout the diocese exceeded their quotas, some going over by more than 400 per cent. Included in the total was nearly \$100,000 pledged by priests of the diocese.

Announcement was made that the new Seminary building would be erected on diocesan property just north of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on Dewey Avenue.

Several weeks later, however, a decision was announced to change the site to Buffalo Road on the property of St. William House, the seminary's student residence.

Prompting the change, according to Monsignor Lyons, was the greater size of the Buffalo Road site and the value of investments already made there in buildings and landscaping. He added that costs of building would be reduced by using the existing St. William House there as a faculty house, and the adjoining St. Patrick's House for maintenance workers. The latter house also could be used in the future as a convent, he pointed out.

Climax of the drive for the new building came on Sept. 18, 1946, 40th anniversary of Bishop Kearney's ordination to the priesthood, when he broke ground for the building.

J. A. SPENCER

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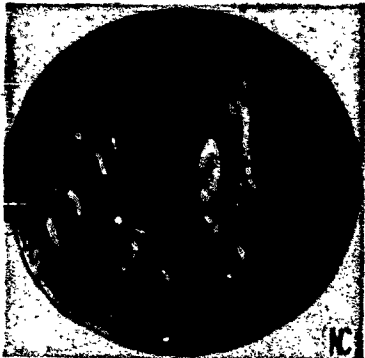
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Joseph P. Flynn

— architect —

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