

# Bishop Kearney — 'Builder Of Tabernacles'

Bishop of Rochester, marking sixteenth year in Diocese,

finds greatest happiness in establishment of new altars, houses of worship

"Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church."

**B**ISHOP James E. Kearney is the rock of the Rochester Catholic Diocese.

In his 16 years of stewardship, Bishop Kearney has mixed mortar and concrete into a glorious edifice of Catholic churches, schools, hospitals and chapels.

Bringing Christ to his flock and glorifying Him in sacred tabernacles is the love of Bishop Kearney's life.

"I have loved the beauty of Thy house, O Lord, and the place where Thy glory dwelleth." (Psalm 25).

New altars and tabernacles, the Bishop says, are accomplishments "which bring me the greatest happiness."

It's not any house that can be a house of God, Bishop Kearney recognizes this.

His keen eye, alert mind and clever ingenuity fathom troubles that beset his diocesan priests and sisters who have building problems.

Bishop Kearney is attentive to the minute details of a growing church or chapel. The sanctuary—the altar—the church proper—all command his shrewd and penetrating attention.

No greater passion — except the love of God — stirs the Bishop's heart more than to increase and multiply the homes of God. A chapel, no matter how insignificant, a church, no matter how glorious, a school, no matter if it is imposing or relatively unimportant becomes a primary concern. This place will be the home of God.

Bishop Kearney's record of 16 years in Rochester emphasizes that he is a true "Petra."

The building rock of the Rochester Diocese emulates the "Blessed Be" of the Divine Praises in that his glory resounds to "Building of."

Building of a new St. Andrew's Seminary;

Building of a new St. Mary's Hospital;

Building of St. Joseph's Villa for orphans;

Building of a new Nazareth College;

Building of St. John Fisher College;

Building of new churches, new chapels, mission chapels, school chapels and chapels in novitates and houses of religious study.

**T**HESSE are not works of a materialistic ruler broadening his empire. These represent works for God and country.

Bishop Kearney's vast building program points only toward bringing God in the Holy Tabernacle closer to his flock.

"I'm close to God. How can I offend Him?"

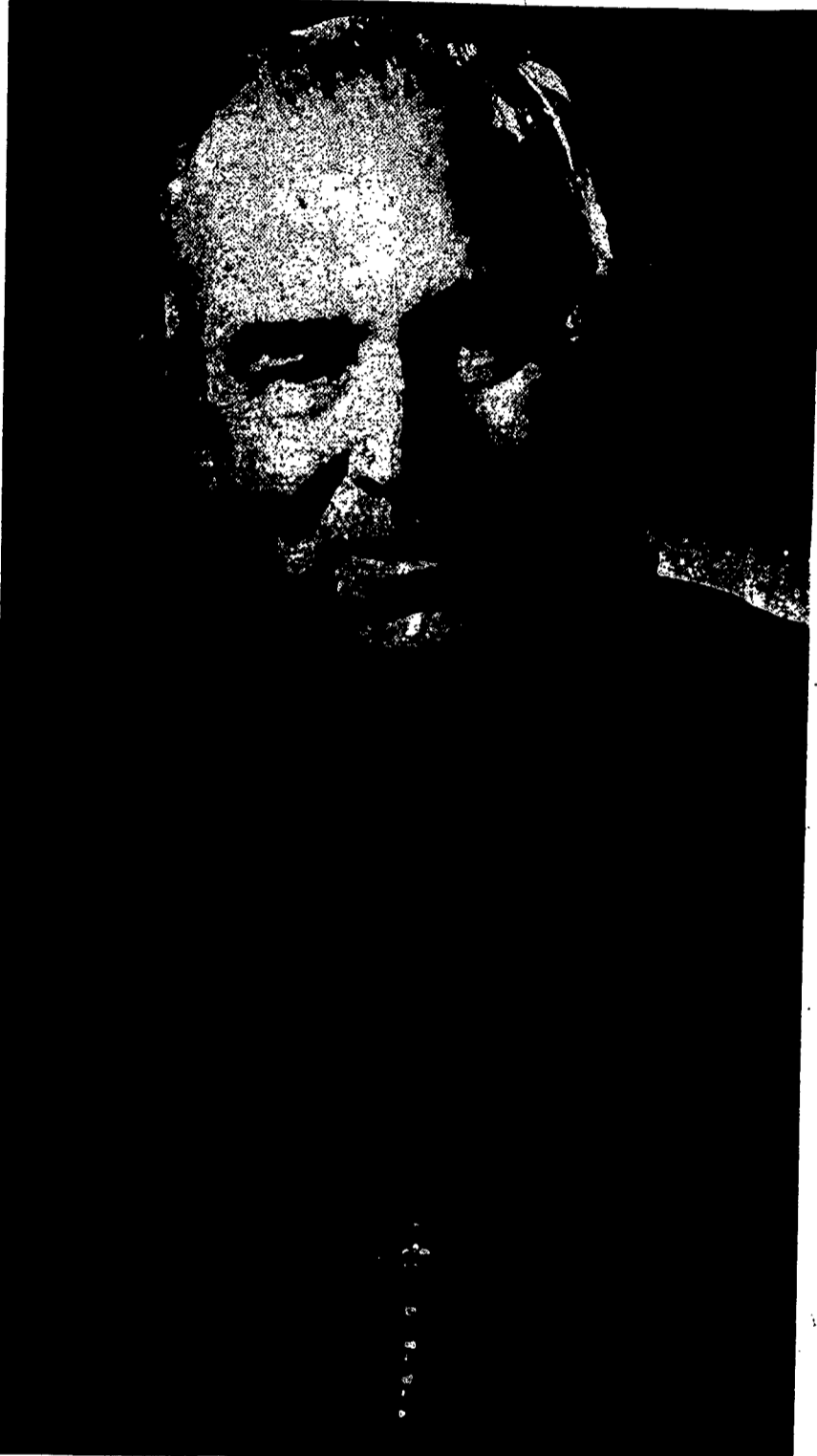
Rochester's fifth Bishop time and again has stressed the dual function of the religious building. The twofold function of the Catholic Church, he says, is to be the House of God and the center for the truths of Christ's gospels.

Returning to New York City to help dedicate St. Francis Xavier Church which he founded in the Bronx, Bishop Kearney said:

"The very presence of Christ in a Catholic Church influences the entire community. Just as the presence of Christ affected everyone with whom He came in contact as He walked the roads of Galilee, so from every tabernacle there goes forth the power of His Person, affecting the individual, the home, the community, the entire country. They are so much richer spiritually because of His presence."

And today, Bishop Kearney's "Building of" praises continue to flow.

The resounding success of the Bishop's High School Fund drive last Fall assures two more Catholic high schools for boys and a new girls' high school in Rochester and new secondary schools in Elmira and Auburn; plus needed improvements in Geneva's DeSalle's High School and others.



MOST REV. JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D.  
Bishop of Rochester

This builder for Christ is no favored son. His origins are humble. James Edward Kearney was born in the simple home of William Patrick Kearney and Rosina O'Doherty Kearney in Red Creek, Iowa, on Oct. 28, 1884.

How the Bishop must relish to tongue the Gaelic names of his parents, both natives of Ireland.

The future bishop advanced but two years before his parents moved to New York City. Later came primary and secondary schooling, Teachers' College, a stint as a public school teacher and then St. Joseph's Seminary.

**S**EPTEMBER of 1908, the now Bishop Kearney became an "alter Christus," a priest of God and dedicated his life in his first Mass at St. Agnus' Church in New York when for the first time as a priest he said: "I will go unto the altar of God, Unto God, who giveth joy to my youth."

For almost 20 years the then Father Kearney served as assistant pastor of St. Cecilia's Church in New York City. In 1928 he formed St. Francis Xavier Church in the Bronx and in 1932 was consecrated Bishop of the Salt Lake City diocese.

Edward Cardinal Mooney, then an Archbishop, was called from the Rochester See to be Archbishop of Detroit. At Cardinal Mooney's installation, Bishop Kearney was announced as the new Bishop of Rochester.

A firm but tolerant bishop came to Rochester. Bishop Kearney found the area of his Salt Lake City Diocese dominated by the Mormon Church. He told a Rochester newspaper reporter:

"They are good people, the Mormons. Decent to live with, good neighbors. I respect the profoundness of their own faith, and profoundly disbelieve it. I know we're right."

"You see," he continued, "a church must have character and strength to be worthy of the name. Its faith must be absolute. We don't believe in the interchange of pulpits, because we don't concede that any other faith is right. It gets down to the old idea in logic that a thing cannot be true and false at the same time. But this isn't intolerance, it's this way:

"If a church believes that Christ instituted seven sacraments, that church is logical in saying that a church that teaches that Christ instituted four, two or six sacraments is wrong in its teachings. This again is not intolerance. It is simply the strong religious conviction which Christ, Himself a very strong teacher, expects us to have."

Besides being a religious man, Bishop Kearney joins and deeply influences civic life. His support of, his personal appeals for and his unflinching devotion to Red Cross, Community Chest and other fund raising campaigns is ample evidence.

As keynoter of the 1951 Community Chest campaign, Bishop Kearney urged an all-out effort as a bulwark

against further government intervention in community affairs. He cautioned that "we pay too high a price for state support."

The Bishop warned: "If we are not vigilant as to the direction from which community welfare support comes, we may some day awake to find ourselves with perfect community welfare indeed — but without a vestige of our liberty."

In greater detail Bishop Kearney said: "We do not say that the state should not provide any assistance at all, but only that the state should not attempt to do so when there are at hand voluntary agencies both capable and willing to assume the sacred trust of ensuring well-being. To encourage these agencies and to supplement their efforts is our work in the Community Chest."

**B**ISHOP Kearney leads laymen. His influence and guidance overflow the borders of his Diocese. He truly is an "alter Christus" to the world.

Despite his manifold diocesan duties, Bishop Kearney has served as Episcopal moderator of the National Federation of Newman Clubs and has been especially active in the National Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. He is a trustee of the Catholic University of America.

The Bishop worked as state chaplain of the Knights of Columbus and served as supreme chaplain of the Knights of St. John.

Retreats for lay people command his special attention. Only a busy man like the Bishop can know the extraordinary worth of a retreat.

The retreat (a bishop makes one each year) pulls the mind away from the cares and trials of everyday living and centers it on the things of God. The retreat releases the shackles of the dollar and replaces them with the tender yoke of God's company.

Bishop Kearney realizes this. He has been unstinting in his support of the Notre Dame Retreat House for men and the Convent of the Cenacle for women, institutions which he helped establish in Rochester.

This Iowa born and New York bred boy who now reigns over the Rochester See has enriched the lives of his people by helping and promoting the religious orders of the church. Facts are most impressive.

The diocese reaps a holy harvest from the prayers at the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary Convent in Elmira, the Trappist Fathers' Monastery of Our Lady of the Genesee at Piffard, the Carmelite Fathers' Whitefriars Monastery in Auburn, the Benedictine Fathers' monastery at Mount Saviour in Elmira, the Basilian Fathers' Monastery and Novitiate in Rochester, the Capuchin Fathers (of the Province of St. Joseph) St. Fidelis Friary in Interlaken.

The reader must be convinced but to add more there are: St. John's Atonement Friary and Seminary at Montour Falls, the Capuchin Fathers Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Geneva, in Watkins Glen the Franciscan Fathers have their St. Anthony Friary and Seminary.

Only five years ago Bishop Kearney blessed St. Michael's Seminary situated high above the blue waters of Honeoye Lake. The seminary is operated by the Fathers of the Society of the Divine Word.

A table of accomplishments shines bright. But even brighter is the man himself. Despite an almost superhuman schedule, Bishop Kearney remains human.

Bishop Kearney's eyes fill with tears at the singing of "Mother Machree." He will never escape the lump in his throat when a crowd sings the "Star Spangled Banner." His heart will ever be moved by music and poetry.

Like the bishop in the "Bishop's Candlesticks" he is more forgiving than righteous; as lovable as he is loving.