



This photo, taken at the annual Blessing of the Graves at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in the Fall of 1929, shows Bishop John Francis O'Hern, then third Bishop of Rochester, assisted (right) by St. Bernard Seminary student, Lawrence S. Casey. Bishop O'Hern ordained him to the priesthood the following June 7, 1930. Father Casey served as secretary to Bishop O'Hern from Oct. 3, 1922 until the latter's death on May 22, 1933.

## Bishop Casey - Auxiliary of Rochester

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WHILE pastor of Holy Cross Church, Father Casey was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title Right Reverend Monsignor. This was in November of 1947.

Bishop Kearney named Monsignor Casey rector of the Pro-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on Feb. 28, 1952. The Monsignor assumed his new duties on Mar. 21. Later in 1952, Pope Pius XII elevated Sacred Heart Church to the rank of Cathedral for the Rochester Diocese.

In May of 1953, Monsignor Casey was appointed a diocesan consultant. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, 1953, Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic delegate to the United States, announced that Pope Pius XII had appointed Monsignor Casey Titular Bishop of Oea and Auxiliary to Bishop Kearney of Rochester.

**B** IS for Builders. In the early days of 1930 a committee approached Father Casey in the Chancery Office. The group had a problem. Their homes were located on the east side of Sodus Bay (East Bay), a considerable distance from the nearest Catholic Church in the village of Sodus. There was no adequate public transportation and getting to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days was a real hardship. "Father," they asked, "couldn't we have a church of our own?"

Starting a new church today is an event of signal importance. In the mid 1930s, it was almost unbelievable. In these days of prosperity, the church builds and expands. But in the grim days of the depression the firm financial pinch restricted expansion. Too many churches fought just to stay open, some sadly did not survive.

Father Casey did not ignore the East Bay residents' plea. His knowl-



BISHOP CASEY  
... on day of ordination

edge of the geography of the Diocese made him realize the justice of their request. After a survey of the region, Father Casey celebrated the first Mass in the district school house. The teacher's desk was the altar and the pupils' desks the pews.

Father John C. O'Donnell, then a professor of mathematics at Aquinas Institute, joined Father Casey in the project. The priests continued to say Mass in the district school and bound the people closer and closer to their desire for a chapel of their own.

During the Winter months, the



BISHOP CASEY AND MOTHER  
... on day of First Mass

zealous people held card parties and socials scraping together a few dollars to make a start on their chapel. The following Summer their hopes were realized. East Bay Chapel was a reality.

Very fittingly this new home for God, located about four miles northwest of Wolcott in Wayne County, was named for St. John Fisher. No longer was Holy Mass celebrated on a teacher's desk, no longer did the faithful use pupils' desks for pews. There now was a real altar for the Real Presence and real pews for the faithful.

WHEN Father Casey became pastor of Holy Cross Church he found the church property in need of extensive overhaul. He rallied the parishioners and by keen administration renovated the church and the school. He improved the rectory and convent and provided additional parking places for cars. Also on the church property was erected an impressive statue to Our Lady Queen of Peace. All this was accomplished in his less than six years as pastor.

On coming to the Pro-Cathedral Monsignor Casey took over another parish whose property needed refurbishing. The church, the school, the rectory and the church grounds, in just a little more than a year, show the improvements of this builder.

The main school hall has been redecorated in pastel green, the ceiling painted white and new lighting fixtures installed. New paint and modern lighting provide a more homelike atmosphere in the four reception rooms in the rectory. Some of the furniture is being re-upholstered and new pieces being bought.

In the Pro-Cathedral itself Monsignor Casey first had the organ rebuilt at a large expense. But like all builders, the pastor also knows the disappointments that nature can cause.

Early in 1953 water came through the pinnacle of the east tower of the

### Bishop Kearney:

His Excellency Bishop Kearney issued following statement on the election of Monsignor Casey as Auxiliary Bishop of Rochester:

"The Diocese is highly honored by the Holy See in the assignment of another Bishop to Rochester.

"Bishop-Elect Casey will remain permanently as the rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral and will assist me in the many and varied functions of the Diocese.

"I am sure that priests, religious and the people join me in happiness over the selection of a priest who has given such outstanding service to three Bishops of this See."

church and caused considerable damage to the wind chests of the organ. New openings had to be drilled through the solid stone in the upper tower to prevent a similar occurrence, and the damaged sections of the organ repaired.

Even before Pius XII elevated the Sacred Heart Church to Cathedral rank, Monsignor Casey began an improvement program to make it befitting its station. The final touch in the sanctuary was the installation of the beautifully carved-wood wainscoting behind the high altar. This brings a certain architectural unity in the sanctuary tying in the altar, the Episcopal throne and the pulpit.

But Monsignor Casey had just begun. Amid the trying business of preparing for his consecration as Bishop, Monsignor Casey has launched new building plans. These include a new convent and regrading of the parish parking lot.

The general contract for the more than \$300,000 new convent was let Mar. 31. Work has begun and opening has been scheduled for this Fall.

In reporting on the convent's progress in the parish bulletin, Monsignor Casey expressed one of his basic principles as a builder. He wrote:

"We are building, God willing, for the next 50 years or more and we want solid, permanent construction. It is economy in the long run to do things right in the beginning."

### IS for Industrious.

Prior to the present "release time" classes in religion for public school children, Father Casey was active in the work. He began about 1935 holding classes at St. Michael's parish in Rochester.

During the next few years he was active especially in the old Our Lady of Sorrows Church where the Rev. Patrick Moffatt was pastor. In co-operation with Father Albert Simonetti, he obtained a government sponsored orchestra and once a week packed more than 550 high school age boys

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