



St. Bernard's Seminary — cradle of learning for 14 Bishops

Alumni Bishops Of St. Bernard's Seminary

Bishop Casey is fourteenth alumnus of Rochester Seminary

elevated to distinguished ranks of American Hierarchy

BY REV. ROBERT F. McNAMARA

THE election of the Most Reverend Lawrence B. Casey, D.D. as auxiliary Bishop of Rochester brings to fourteen the total of American archbishops and bishops who have received all or part of their education at St. Bernard's Seminary. Bishop Casey is also the sixth resident of the Diocese of Rochester to have been elevated to the episcopacy.

Of the episcopal alumni of St. Bernard's Seminary, all but one is still living. The deceased member of the group is the late Bishop John Francis O'Hern, third Bishop of Rochester. Bishop O'Hern made his philosophical studies at St. Bernard's from 1896 to 1897. In 1897, however, he was sent to the North American College in Rome, where he made his theological course, and where he was ordained in 1901. Consecrated Bishop of Rochester in 1929 by the late Cardinal Hayes, he served in that capacity until his untimely death four years later.

Two of the St. Bernard's alumni have reached the rank of archbishop. First is the Most Reverend Francis P. Keough, D.D., Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, our most ancient and most historic American See. Archbishop Keough finished the second last year of his theology at St. Bernard's, from September 1914 to June 1915. Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Hartford in 1916, he was promoted to the See of Providence in 1924, whence he was transferred to the archiepiscopal See of Baltimore in 1947.

The other alumnus who bears the title of archbishop is Archbishop Joseph F. Hurley. With Archbishop Hurley, however, it is a title of honor. He is a bishop rather than archbishop in rank. Originally a student for the Cleveland Diocese, Archbishop Hurley did his second year of philosophy at St. Bernard's, 1915-1916. Ordained in 1919, he advanced to become an assistant in the Secretariat of State at the Vatican, and

he was consecrated Bishop of St. Augustine, Florida in 1940. After World War II he was named temporary regent of the Apostolic Nunciature in Yugoslavia. In recognition of his work there, he was given the personal title of archbishop in 1950 by Pope Pius XII.

SENIOR bishop among the St. Bernard's alumni is the Most Reverend Andrew J. Brennan, D.D., who spent his second philosophy year, 1900-1901, in Rochester. Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Scranton in 1904, he was consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton in 1923. Named Bishop of Richmond in 1932, he continued in that post until he resigned because of ill health in 1945. With the present rank of Titular Bishop of Teimlasus, he is living in retirement in Virginia. Next in seniority is the Most Reverend Emmet M. Walsh, D.D., Bishop of Youngstown, who was elected Bishop of Charleston, S. C. in 1927. Entering St. Bernard's in 1910, he was ordained for the Diocese of Charleston in 1916, and became, on his consecration, the first episcopal alumnus to have made his whole course in Rochester's major seminary. In 1949 he was made Coadjutor Bishop of Youngstown, and in 1952 became Bishop of Youngstown.

Other bishops who have made all or practically all their priestly studies at St. Bernard's are the following: Most Reverend Walter A. Foery, D.D. (Class of 1916), Bishop of Syracuse from 1937 to the present; Most Reverend John J. Boylan, D.D. (Class of 1916), Bishop of Hartford from 1942 to the present; Most Reverend William R. Arnold, D.D. (Class of 1906), Auxiliary Bishop of the Military Ordinate from 1946 to the present; and Most Reverend David F. Cunningham, D.D. (Class of 1906), Auxiliary Bishop of Syracuse, from 1930 to the present.

Bishops who have spent two years at St. Bernard's (in addition to Bishop

O'Hern) are Bishop Brady of Manchester, Bishop O'Brien of Hartford, and Bishop Reedy of Columbus.

The Most Reverend Matthew F. Brady, D.D. (Class of 1916) finished his last two years of theology at St. Bernard's in the years 1914-1916. Ordained in 1918 for the Diocese of Hartford, he was Bishop of Burlington from 1938 until 1944, in which year he was transferred to Manchester. The Most Reverend Henry J. O'Brien, D.D. (Class of 1923) did his two years of philosophy in Rochester (1917-1919), but studied theology and was ordained in Europe. Made auxiliary to the Bishop of his own diocese, Hartford, in 1940, he was chosen head of the same See in 1945. The Most Reverend Michael J. Reedy, D.D. (Class of 1918) also made his philosophical course at St. Bernard's. He finished his priestly studies in Cleveland, however, in his own diocesan seminary, and was ordained in 1918. After long service with the National Catholic Welfare Conference in Washington, he was made Bishop of Columbus in 1944.

In addition to Archbishops Keough and Hurley and Bishop Brennan, there is one other bishop who attended St. Bernard's Seminary for only one year of his course. He is the Most Reverend Russell J. McVinnay, D.D. (Class of 1924), Bishop of Providence. Bishop McVinnay entered the first year of the theological course in 1920, but in 1921 he was transferred to Europe, and finished his training there.

ALTHOUGH Bishop Casey is thus one of fourteen bishop-alumni of St. Bernard's, he is one of only five bishop-alumni of Rochester's minor seminary, St. Andrew's Preparatory Seminary. The others, in addition to Bishop O'Hern and Foery are the Most Reverend Thomas F. Hickey, D.D., second Bishop of Rochester (1907-1928) and the Most Reverend Edward J. Hanna, third Archbishop

of San Francisco (1915-1935).

Finally, Bishop Casey is the seventh resident of the Rochester Diocese to be promoted to the episcopacy. The following men, natives of the diocese, or residents in it during at least part of their life, have been his predecessors:

James Edward Guigley, Bishop of Buffalo (1896-1903), and Archbishop of Chicago (1903-1915) came to Lima, N. Y., when a child, and received his early education there. He also died in Rochester; he was visiting his brother here when stricken with his last illness. Thomas A. Hendrick, Bishop of Cebu, Philippine Islands (1903-1909) was born in Penn Yan. Bishop Thomas F. Hickey was a native of the city of Rochester; Bishop John F. O'Hern moved here when young; and Bishop Walter A. Foery is a born Rochesterian.

The most recently consecrated bishop to have had his roots in the Rochester Diocese is the Most Reverend Patrick J. Byrne, M.M., D.D., Apostolic Delegate to Korea. Born in 1898, Bishop Byrne passed his childhood in Auburn, where he attended Holy Family Grammar School and, for two years, Holy Family High School. Afterwards he joined his family in Washington. Long a Maryknoll missionary in the Far East before World War II, and a Japanese prisoner during the war, he was sent back at the close of the war to become Apostolic Visitor of Korea. In 1949 he was named Titular Bishop of Gazera, and appointed Apostolic Delegate to Korea. But after the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 he was taken captive by the Korean Communists, and is now reported dead.

Bishop Casey joins in becoming a member of the hierarchy, a notable company of archbishops and bishops, of confessors and martyrs—men who, like himself, have called the Diocese of Rochester their home, and its two seminaries, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's, their Alma Mater.