

The Hierarchy — 'Shepherds Of The Flock'

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secret archives of the archbishop and to be destroyed within a year.

The Holy See is not limited, however, in its appointment of bishops to the names proposed in these meetings. It may and very often does, inform itself of the qualifications of priests for the episcopacy by means of secret investigations made through the Apostolic Delegate. We can easily understand, however, how the information obtained by the Holy See from these meetings proves particularly valuable in war time and other periods of unrest.

BY VIRTUE of his office the bishop is obliged by what is known as the law of residence. That is, he may not be away from his diocese for more than three months of the year except to make his ad limina visit to Rome and to fulfill special duties connected with his office. He must also say Mass for the faithful of his diocese on every Sunday of the year and also on those feasts which are now or were formerly holy days of obligation (31 in number).

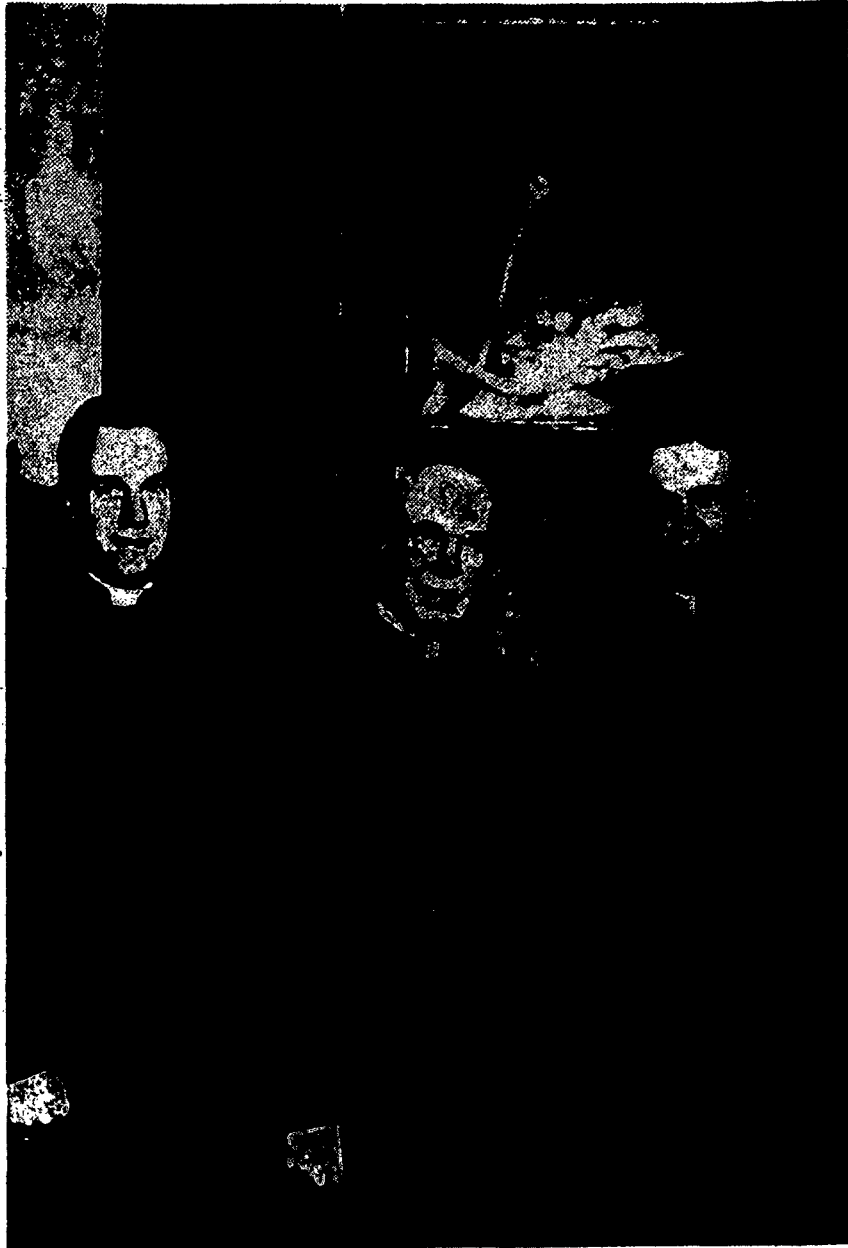
Every five years the bishops of the United States are obliged to make their ad limina visit to Rome. (The fulfillment of this obligation fell due in 1944, but because of the war the bishops were excused.) During their visit to Rome the bishops must answer a detailed questionnaire concerning conditions in their dioceses and give the report to the Consistorial Congregation (one of the 11 Sacred Congregations which deals with affairs pertaining to the bishops of the world). They must furthermore venerate the tombs of the Apostles, Sts. Peter and Paul, and present themselves to the Holy Father. The ad limina visit is a personal obligation of each bishop. But if poor health or some other pressing reason should prevent him from making the visit, he must inform the Holy See and, upon acceptance of his reason, send

a delegate—his coadjutor bishop, or an auxiliary bishop if he has one, or a priest of his own diocese.

The bishop is also bound to visit each parish of his diocese every five years. The fulfillment of this obligation is called the diocesan visitation. Its purposes are to enable the bishop to maintain close contact with his priests, to look into the relationship between the pastors and their parishes, and to examine the property and the state of each parish's finances. The bishops of the United States frequently make their diocesan visitations while conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation.

MANY of the bishop's privileges are concerned with the celebration of Holy Mass, the conferring of the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Orders, the blessing of the faithful, and the honor shown to him. Aside from these privileges bishops have the right to be addressed by the title "Most Reverend Excellency." They can also grant an indulgence of 50 days. A throne is always to be provided for them, at religious functions in their own dioceses.

To the bishop also belongs the right of wearing the garb distinctive of his office. Most of the insignia of his office are of very ancient origin and some are symbolic of the powers with which he is endowed. The mitre, for instance, a white folding cap rising to a peak, having two cloth pendants at its back, is a symbol of the bishop as the champion of truth. The mitre has been generally used by bishops since the year 1000. It is blessed and conferred on each newly-consecrated bishop at the ceremony of consecration and is worn at religious services at which the bishop is present. There are three types of mitres worn by each bishop, distinguished from one another by their greater or lesser degree or lack of ornamentation; the precious mitre,

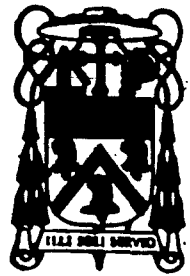


Bishop Casey shortly after word of his appointment as Auxiliary of the Rochester See visited His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney, center, in Detroit. Shown on the left is Bishop Alexander Zaleski, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, who will be a coconsecrator for Bishop Casey.

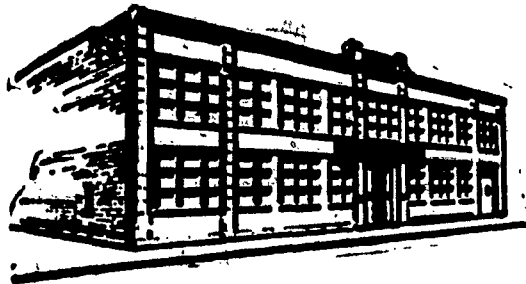
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Heartiest Felicitations

BISHOP LAWRENCE B. CASEY, D. D.



The many craftsmen, staff and management of the Christopher Press, Inc. express their warmest congratulations to Bishop Lawrence B. Casey and extend to him their sincere wishes for a long and happy life in His service.



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