



Advent of Bishop James E. Kearney in Rochester is recalled in photo, left, when he greeted thousands who welcomed him in the New York Central Station; and in photo right, showing him kneeling in Sacred Heart Church at rites installing him as Fifth Bishop of Rochester on November 11, 1937.

Diocese Of Rochester Founded In 1868

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new religious groups were introduced into the diocese chiefly to conduct classes in parochial schools. The Allegheny Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis founded their first two diocesan teaching missions at St. Margaret Mary's School and Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Rochester in 1929. The Polish Franciscan Sisters of the Hamburg Province began work at St. Theresa's School in Rochester in 1928; The Lithuanian Franciscan Sisters of the Pittsburgh Province began teaching at St. George's School, Rochester, in 1931; and the Religious Teachers Filipini opened their convent of St. Mary's of the Lake, at Watkins Glen, in 1936.

Two foundations of great value to Church and community date from this same period: Holy Angel's Home, and the Columbus Youth Association both in Rochester.

When Bishop O'Hern's death, on May 22, 1933, brought his brief but intensive episcopate to its untimely end, his loss was genuinely mourned by all his fellow citizens who knew him so well for his vast good-will and kindness.

Barely four months later Pope Pius XI chose as his successor a prelate of international note, the Most Rev. Edward Mooney, titular Archbishop of Irenopolis, who had served for five years as Apostolic Delegate to India and for two years as Apostolic Delegate to Japan. Archbishop Mooney was a Marylander by birth. He was educated for the priesthood at St. Mary's, Baltimore and at the North American College, Rome, and ordained a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland. He was engaged in parochial work until named Spiritual Director at the North American College, where he served until his consecration.

ARCHBISHOP Mooney was installed in Rochester October 12, 1933, and remained until May 31, 1937, when he was transferred to the new archiepiscopal See of Detroit.

The old St. Patrick's Cathedral, scene of so many great celebrations in the history of the Diocese, but by 1937 surrounded by a commercial area, was sold, with much of the adjacent diocesan property to the Eastman Kodak Company. The Cathedral Parish became simply St. Patrick's with the Cathedral Hall remodeled into a church. Sacred Heart Church was chosen as the Pro-cathedral.

Another event of spiritual importance was the convocation of the Fifth Synod of Rochester on December 12, 1934.

The Diocese was honored in the choice of one of her priests to become a Bishop, Father Walter A.

Foery, at the time Director of the Rochester Catholic Charities, and pastor of Holy Rosary Church, was named Bishop of Syracuse on May 28, 1937, and his consecration the last such rites in old St. Patrick's Cathedral—was performed by Archbishop Mooney on August 18.

In educational matters there were three noteworthy events during Archbishop Mooney's episcopate; first was the establishment in 1933 of Niagara University College of Business Administration. The second was the arrival of the Basilian Fathers to assume direction of the Aquinas Institute in 1937. The third was the establishment, on Hemlock, of St. Michael's Mission House, a preparatory seminary for missionary vocations to the Society of the Divine Word, and also the eastern headquarters of that same order. This was opened in 1936. The construction of the St. William House, on Buffalo Road, to furnish more comfortable accommodations for St. Andrew's students from outside Rochester was completed in 1936.

Charitable societies which date their foundations from the era of Archbishop Mooney include the Catholic Workers of Rochester, founded 1934, the St. Peter Claver Center for Colored People, founded in 1936, and the St. Gerard Maternity Guild, founded in 1935.

ON ARMISTICE Day, 1937, Rochester Catholics gave a rousing welcome to his successor, the Most Rev. James Edward Kearney. The new fifth Bishop of Rochester had been Bishop of Salt Lake, Utah, previous to his nomination to Rochester Diocese on July 31, 1937. Though born at Red Oak, Iowa, on October 28, 1884, he had been ordained as priest for service in the Archdiocese of New York, on September 19, 1908, after having made his theological course at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, N. Y. His consecration to the episcopacy, as Bishop of Salt Lake, had taken place in New York on October 28, 1932.

Now in his 16th year of reign, Bishop Kearney is establishing in the Diocese monuments to his administration particularly in the field of education.

A high point in the unified achievement of the Diocese of Rochester under the personal direction of Bishop Kearney was the "Bishop's High School Jubilee Campaign" which observed the Bishop's 20th anniversary in the Episcopacy and his 15th anniversary as Fifth Bishop of Rochester.

Friends and people working together to raise funds for the building of four high schools turned in the unprecedented amount of \$4,505,185 for 168 percent of the \$3,045,550 goal.

The campaign was conducted to es-

tablish a fund for building new high schools in Elmira, Auburn and one in Rochester and to provide financial assistance to DeSales High school in Geneva. The result assured possibility of building a third high school in Rochester and land for this was purchased in the town of Irondequoit since the campaign.

Elated at the response of his people and those of other faiths to the appeal for building high schools, the Bishop at the close of the drive declared:

"This proves that people have grasped the opportunity to answer eloquently attacks on religious education."

An adequate building for housing St. Andrew's Preparatory Seminary became a diocesan problem in 1937 with the sale of the Cathedral property to Eastman Kodak Company which included the seminary building on Plymouth Ave. North.

Temporary quarters were established in the old Cathedral High School, a block to the north.

Under Bishop Kearney's guidance a campaign was conducted and a structure resulted on Buffalo Road that is the last word in appointments and adequately capable of furnishing the necessary high school and college training for young men, not only from this diocese but from others as well.

As an educator of long experience, the present Bishop of Rochester saw to it early in his reign that the Sisters of St. Joseph were encouraged in the work they were doing in educating Catholic young women. The Nazareth College building on Augustine St. was known to be inadequate for the college's future plans and the college was moved to East Ave. in 1942. A successful campaign under Bishop Kearney's direction provided funds for the new building.

A MEN'S Catholic college long dreamed about in the Diocese from as far back as 1912 came into reality during the present reign when St. John Fisher College conducted by the Basilian Fathers was started with the imposing building at Fairport Road and East Ave. This too was financed in a diocesan-wide campaign under Bishop Kearney's guidance.

On the grammar school level, new schools have been built where needed and additions made to others. One in Auburn, St. Francis of Assisi, necessitated bringing a new community of nuns, the Religious of Jesus and Mary in to teach. In Brighton and Irondequoit adjacent to Rochester new school buildings were constructed in new and existing parishes.

The training of young men for the Holy Priesthood by religious communities has been fostered in various

sections of the Diocese by Bishop Kearney. The Basilian Fathers in 1942 moved into the old Nazareth College Building to open in one part of that building their first American novitiate. Young men are trained for the Italian-Custodia of the Franciscan Capuchins in a seminary established in Geneva.

Friars of the Atonement with headquarters at Graymoor now have a seminary at Montour Falls in the converted former Cook Academy. A high school and junior seminary are in charge of the Franciscan Fathers from Pulaski, Wis. in the former Glen Hotel at Watkins Glen. On the shores of Hemlock Lake is a novitiate of the Society of the Divine Word. The Carmelite Fathers have a novitiate at Whitefriars in Auburn.

Spiritual progress in the diocese has been expanded in many forms. To a farm near Pittard have come the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance, better known as The Trappists, on Bishop Kearney's invitation to establish a Monastery. The Benedictine Fathers, also a contemplative order of prestige are now established near Elmira. The Capuchin Fathers conduct a Friary in Interlaken.

Need for closed retreats for the laity in the diocese was taken into consideration by the present Bishop of Rochester who directed the Redemptorist Fathers to establish the Notre Dame Diocesan Retreat House in Rochester following formative work in the movement by the Redemptorists at Lake Seneca, Geneva.

This was followed by the establishment in Rochester of a Convent and Retreat House of the Religious of Our Lady of the Cenacle for retreats and other devotions by Catholic women. The Bishop has always given his full encouragement to the Carmelite Sisters, contemplative community in Rochester and to the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary in Elmira.

ESTABLISHMENT of parishes and missions has brought the total number of parishes to 142 in the diocese. One chapel is worth special mention, the Chapel of St. John Bosco in the Elmira Reformatory, which was dedicated by Bishop Kearney, June 28, 1938 and became by that fact the first exclusively Catholic chapel in any American penal institution.

The practice of the corporal works of mercy in the Diocese since Bishop Kearney's arrival is testified to by two splendid institutions. The first is St. Joseph's Villa, a cottage-plan orphanage which was built to replace St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Homes. The other is the new St. Mary's Hospital. It was opened in January 1945 to supplant the building which the Sisters of Charity had used for a hospital since 1865. Erected too and dedicated in July, 1931 was a modern

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