

**Pius, Bishop
Servant of the Servants of God**

To Our Venerable Brother
JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY
Bishop of Rochester
PIUS XII, SUPREME PONTIFF

Venerable Brother,
Health and Apostolic Benediction

With great pleasure We have learned that you will soon complete twenty-five years rich in accomplishment since you assumed your pastoral office, five of which you spent as Bishop of the Diocese of Salt Lake City, and twenty governing the Diocese of Rochester. We do not wish the anniversary observance of that happy event to pass unnoticed without expressing to you, Venerable Brother, Our good wishes and prayerful greetings, and by this Our Letter adding to your own joy and that of your flock.

We know very well that as becomes a Bishop you are most devoted to the Apostolic See wherein Jesus Christ, the Founder of the Church, has established the summit of authority and the center and source of unity. We know too that you have always been most prudent and diligent in the exercise of your episcopal office, which while greatly honoring its holder at the same time imposes upon him a truly heavy burden.

The new parish churches, convents and rectories which you have built, the new seminary, colleges and schools of various kinds, the hospital, the orphans' home, and the other projects initiated under your direction, all manifestly proclaim your zeal for religion and that enlightened interest which, when ever the need arises, plans great and useful things courageously, and with trust in God alone.

It is a further tribute to your zeal that you have devoted your energies in past years to the spiritual welfare of young college students as Episcopal Moderator of the National Federation of Newman Clubs with conspicuously abundant fruit. Gifted as you are with gentleness of spirit and grace of eloquence, you have been able to guide the character of youth with kindness and affection towards the austere discipline of virtue.

We earnestly pray that as your years increase you too may increase in genuine wisdom, and that with unrelaxing effort, as humility and charity will dictate, you may in your vigilance and labor shine forth ever more brightly by the example of your life, and grow ever more rich in merits. To that end We beg for you in abundance the gift of God's bounteous grace, without which we can do nothing, and with which we can endure and accomplish all things.

In order that the observance of this happy occasion may be more profitable spiritually to your people, We grant to you the faculty to impart in Our name and by Our authority to all the faithful assembled for your pontifical Mass the Apostolic Blessing, attaching thereto a plenary indulgence to be gained under the usual conditions.

And now nothing remains except that, imploring for you all heavenly assistance, We lovingly bestow Our blessing upon you and your very capable Auxiliary Bishop, and upon all of the sheep of Christ committed to your care.

Given at St. Peter's in Rome, on the fifth day of the month of September, in the year 1957, the nineteenth of Our Pontificate.

PIUS XII, Supreme Pontiff.

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