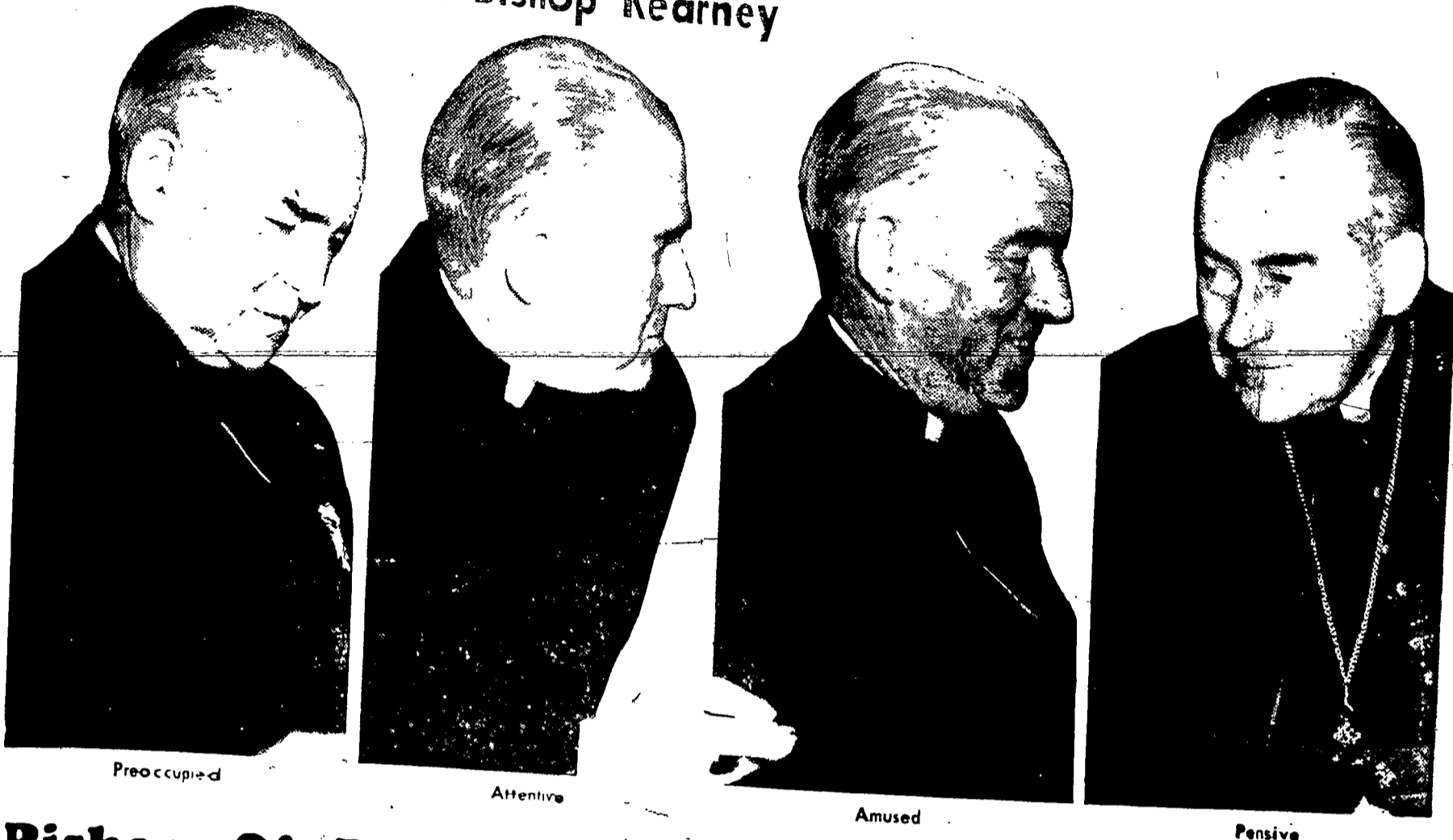


Familiar Profiles Of Bishop Kearney



Preoccupied

Attentive

Amused

Pensive

Bishop Of Rochester — Silver Jubilarian

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...ually build another "Catholic school." With over 40,000 pupils now enrolled in more than 100 elementary schools and with new parish schools under the architect's design, Bishop Kearney has more than ample ground to expand the diocesan school system.

High school expansion has been particularly impressive. Sixteen of seventeen secondary schools now operating in the Diocese have come into existence or acquired new buildings or additions since Bishop Kearney's advent in Rochester.

In one year alone (1952) the erection of four major high schools was undertaken. These were St. Agnes Jesuit High School and St. Agnes High School in Rowlesville, the Lady of Mount Carmel High School in Auburn, and Notre Dame High School in Elmira. These four schools represented a capital outlay of \$7,500,000.

In 1950 Bishop Kearney opened a \$10-million dollar project west of Rochester on Buffalo Road to house St. Andrew's Seminary. This major institution for the training of diocesan priests is dedicated to the modern wing including gymnasium, for DeSales High School in Geneva. Earlier in Rochester, he dedicated a new addition to Sacred Heart Academy (1948), a new wing for Nazareth Academy (1949), and an auditorium-casino addition for Our Lady of Mercy High School (1941).

Augmenting this formidable educational picture are the day houses or schools established by religious communities whom the Bishop has aided or sponsored in the Diocese. Among these are Pader High School and Minor Seminary in Watkins Glen; American Friars of Wisconsin; Whitefriars Seminary in Auburn; Carmelite Fathers; St. Michael's Mission House at Conesus (Society of the Divine Word); St. John Venerment Seminary at Montour Falls (Franciscan Friars of the Atonement); Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, Geneva (Capuchin Fathers); and St. Basil's Novitiate, Rochester (Basilian Fathers).

IN THE FIELD of higher education Bishop Kearney has seen two diocesan institutions, in less than ten years, win respected places in the Rochester community. These are Nazareth College for women and St. John Fisher College for men.

Following a \$250,000 campaign drive, Bishop Kearney dedicated in 1942 the new Nazareth College building on the attractive East Avenue campus in Pittsford. With a

... (approximately 500) young women in the Diocese of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Nazareth College has secured the continuous presence of a Bishop who firmly believes in the value of higher education for the young women of Catholic laity.

Establishment of St. John Fisher College, whose motto since now dominates the rolling eminence at the junction of East Avenue and Fairport Road to the south side of Rochester, fulfilled a long-time dream of giving the Diocese a Catholic college for women.

THE STORY of St. John Fisher College is a rapidly growing institution for young students under the direction of the Basilian Fathers. In a Bishop Kearney story all the way to St. John Fisher, the college is the most important undertaking of my first ten years in the Diocese.

I have personally led million-dollar fund drives to appeal to his people to help him build the new college. Approximately \$4,000,000 to St. John Fisher College was raised by Bishop Kearney in 1941. The school, Bishop Kearney conceived, would meet a long-standing need of providing a Catholic college for the hundreds of boys and girls each year from the high schools of the Diocese.

As a result of the college fund drive, \$4,577,000 pledges for a total of \$5,250,000.

... This bespoke a tribute of the whole Diocese to its zealous Bishop who headed the "outstanding success" of the fund appeal and the response of his people as "a personal approval of my ten years of stewardship in the Diocese."

In Bishop Kearney's mind, St. John Fisher College, and all Catholic schools in this country are truly American institutions where patriotism and loyalty to country are cherished and fostered.

He was careful to point this out at ground breaking rites for the new college on June 19, 1949. Speaking against a background of loyalty investigations then current in Washington, he said:

"We do not tolerate disloyalty in a Catholic school no one asks a student or a professor if he will salute the flag. This is taken as a part of our responsibility."

Forecasting the contribution that St. John Fisher would make to the nation, Bishop Kearney confidently predicted:

"Our country now more than ever needs leaders who have one loyalty—loyalty to country. We want to get men into public life today who have a deep sense of patriotism and are trained as leaders. In this spirit we are proud to make the contribution of St. John Fisher College to America and Rochester."

As a Catholic school, St. John

Fisher College has a very special role of carrying on the message of Christian truth and example.

This was stressed in detail by the Episcopal founder when John Fisher was formally dedicated on October 10, 1952. Speaking in the presence of distinguished educators and civic leaders attending the rites, Bishop Kearney called attention to the college entrance where these words of Christ are inscribed:

"This is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou has sent."

These words, Bishop Kearney explained, were the last words read from the New Testament which St. John Fisher carried with him on the day he was led out to a martyr's death. "Here is indeed learning enough for me to my life's end," commented the saintly Bishop of Rochester as he closed the New Testament for the last time.

This inscription over the college portal, Bishop Kearney added, is the testament handed down to St. John Fisher College by its patron saint. It explains the policy of the college laid down in the school's first catalogue.

"St. John Fisher College aims to produce men who think, judge and act constantly and considerably in accordance with right reason, illumined by the supernatural light of example and teaching of Christ."

This dedication of John Fisher College to the service of "God and Country" is also, in Bishop Kearney's view, the dedication of all Catholic schools, particularly those of his own Diocese.

The religious-sponsored school must be always and irrevocably part of the American scene, according to the Bishop of Rochester. He has made his philosophy very clear in his talks at the almost countless dedications of Catholic schools in his Diocese.

"The religious school," he likes to recall, "has been with us since the very foundation of American institutions. In building religious schools we are doing nothing new in American society."

THE AMERICAN Catholic school has no champion more eloquent than the Bishop of Rochester when he turns the pages of American History to note that "the very purpose of the school in early New England was to educate the children in religion."

He also cites historians of American education to support his charge

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Diocese Of Rochester	1937	1957
Diocesan Priests	289	385
Religious Order Priests	21	157
Parishes	129	148
Missions	36	31
Religious Orders of Men	6	14
Religious Orders of Women	14	22
Seminarists of Diocese	82	254
Colleges	1	3
Number of Students	237	1,040
High Schools	7	17
Students	3,014	7,276
Elementary Schools	72	93
Number of Students	24,542	41,786
Orphanages	3	1
Total Children	224	120
Hospitals	4	4
Baptisms	5,502	11,987
Marriages	2,520	3,225
Catholic Population	223,117	357,296