

# Champion Of Catholic School Education

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of Rochester diocese. The wartime boom in babies has had significance for all education. The increase in infant baptisms reported from the church makes Bishop Kearney very aware of the challenge facing him in the field of education, once the war was over and materials and means of education were again available.

The war's end saw the bishops pushing plans for the construction of new schools upon the architects and the public. They had a heavy approval of the plan.

This amazing expansion of Catholic education in Rochester has not been achieved since Bishop Kearney came to the diocese.

To show how important Catholic schools to him, Bishop Kearney always made it his business to be on hand for the construction of these new parish schools. In one case he was always on hand to dedicate them when they were finished. The burden of the Bishop's message on all these occasions was the same. The Catholic school, he explained, gives youth the answer to the question that he asks: "Why am I on this earth?" In the words of Christ, the Catholic school answers to modern youth the call: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His justice."

The Catholic school according to the Bishop, never loses sight of the goal of eternal life in the education of children. She never ceases to cultivate, particularly in the young minds that are still soft and impressionable, "What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world, but shall he lose of his own soul?"

The story of Catholic parish schools grows under Bishop Kearney has been one of constant progress and that in the face of mounting costs. Since his arrival in the Diocese 20 years ago, 22 new parish schools have been established, most of them in the last 10 years.

These new parish schools include St. Peter and Paul, Auburn; Holy Spirit, Rochester; St. Joseph, Rochester; Mother of Sorrows, Rochester; School of the Holy Child, Rochester; Our Lady of Lourdes, Rochester; St. Ann, Rochester; St. James, Rochester; St. Francis of Assisi, Auburn; St. Louis, Pittsford; St. Cecilia, Rochester; St. Michael, North Tonawanda; St. James, West Seneca; St. Jerome, East Rochester; St. Rita, West Webster; Most Precious Blood, Rochester; St. Joseph, Fenfield, Rochester; Our King, Rochester; Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira; St. Thomas More, Rochester; and Sacred Heart, Auburn. At the present time two more parish schools are under construction, at Annunciation, Rochester, and Good Shepherd, Henrieville.

Besides the newly established schools, Bishop Kearney has also dedicated new plants for 18 parish schools. These are: Holy Ghost, Rochester; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Rochester; St. Andrew, Rochester; St. Anthony, Rochester; St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester; St. John the Evangelist, Greece; St. Monica, Rochester; St. Salome, Rochester; St. Theodore, Rochester; St. Thomas, Rochester; St. Alphonsus, Auburn; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, Brockport; St. Vincent de Paul, Conning; St. Anthony, Elmira; St. Stephen, Geneva; Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; St. Patrick, Owego; and St. Michael, Penn Yan.

**T**HIS PHENOMENAL record of parish school expansion points up several significant factors.

Parish school construction since 1937, when Bishop Kearney came to Rochester, has made it possible to increase the elementary pupil enrollment by 20,500, or a growth of 78 per cent in 20 years.

This story of parochial school development should have deep significance for the tax-burdened citizens

# High School Enrollment

BISHOP KEARNEY'S successful efforts in expanding Catholic high school education in the Rochester Diocese are revealed in the following comparison of the high school enrollment for 1937, when he came to the Diocese, with the registration figures for the current scholastic year:

SCHOOL	1937	1957
Academy of the Sacred Heart	47	85
Aquinas Institute	1,094	1,283
Holy Angels		9
McQuaid Jesuit High School		920
Nazareth Academy	771	1,317
Our Lady of Mercy High School	348	943
St. Agnes High School		749
St. Andrew Seminary	*	130
St. Joseph Commercial		208
Holy Family High School, Auburn	167	
Mount Carmel High School, Auburn		523
St. Michael Mission Seminary		42
Elmira Catholic High School, Elmira	144	
Notre Dame High School, Elmira		493
DeSales High School, Geneva	327	316
Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, Geneva		35
St. Ann, Hornell (1st Year)	22	
St. Rose, Lima (1st Year)	3	
St. John Atonement Seminary, Montour Falls		71
Padua High School, Watkins Glen		152
	2,923	7,276

\*High School Department enrollment not available

In his own mind on how to proceed his first step was to provide a modern plant for his minor seminary of St. Andrew, the diocesan institution which trains young men for the priesthood.

The Bishop had been disappointed, on coming to Rochester, to find St. Andrew's Seminary, the alma mater which had mothered so many priests

of the Diocese, located in temporary, outmoded, and inadequate quarters in Rochester's old St. Patrick's school building on Frank Street. Feeling that this worthy institution deserved more adequate facilities, he determined to take his first opportunity of providing them.

This opportunity came in 1945

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The Religious of  
**OUR LADY of the CENACLE**  
 offer  
**BISHOP KEARNEY**  
 prayerful congratulations  
 on the occasion of His  
**SILVER JUBILEE**  
 in the  
**EPISCOPATE**