

Champion Of Catholic Education

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when St. Andrew's was marking its 75th anniversary occasion the Bishop's \$500,000 diocesan-wide campaign to build a new St. Andrew's building.

Results of the campaign on behalf of the diocese were most encouraging. The loyal support which the diocese would give to its educational ventures, as evidenced by the pledges shown at the annual diocesan fair more than the \$100,000 for the new seminarian school at Buffalo Road, was far more than the \$100,000 for the new St. Andrew's building was for fully opening the doors to 1930.

Still faced with the need for more high school facilities, the Bishop was very happy to receive the new addition to the Holy Spirit School.

The task however, of providing adequate facilities for the growing army of young Catholics continued to be a most pressing one. The opportunity to solve this problem with this very challenging problem came in 1954, the year the Bishop was marking his 25th anniversary as Bishop of Rochester.

AS A TRIBUTE to the Bishop's 25th anniversary, plans were set on foot to conduct a three million dollar fund campaign in the Diocese for the erection of four new major schools.

This financial undertaking, the most ambitious in the history of the Diocese met with a resounding response from all the people. Along with the generous sacrifices of the people were the generous contributions from business corporations and firms who broke positions of indifference to support the Bishop's program of education.

Final meeting of this fund drive, held at the Covered Bridge Armory in Rochester, saw 1000 diocesan workers report to Bishop Kearney pledges totaling \$1,000,000.

"Never did I dream," Bishop Kearney told the jubilant workers, "that within 15 years this tremendous crowd of people would put together funds for other purposes than to make my hopes and dreams come true. You have climaxed these 15 years by one of the greatest events in my life."

Success of the campaign made possible construction of the four new high schools: McQuaid Jesuit High School for boys, and the St. Agnes High School for girls, both in Rochester; Mount Carmel High School for boys and girls in Auburn; and Notre Dame High School for boys and girls in Easton. All four of these high schools were completed and ready for operation by 1955. The past year also saw Mount Carmel in Auburn add a new wing to meet its enrollment needs.

Two years ago, enlarged and improved facilities for secretarial training were provided by St. Joseph's Commercial School which the School Sisters of Notre Dame conduct in downtown Rochester. This popular business training school has a current enrollment of over 200 students.

The importance of these new facilities to the diocesan high school program is reflected in a comparison of enrollment figures for 1937, when Bishop Kearney came to the Diocese with the enrollment figures for the current year of 1957, when he is marking his 20th anniversary as Bishop of the Rochester See. In 1937 diocesan high schools had an enrollment of 2,928. This year the current



Youngster representing diocesan schools presents Bishop \$25,000 check for building of National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

enrollment of 10,000 diocesan high schools is 2,928.

HIGH SCHOOL enrollment provides a clear picture of the growth of the diocese. Bishop Kearney's 25th anniversary system is firmly established. It coincides with

the fact that the Bishop deeply regretted the education-minded Bishop lost little time tackling this problem. Within three years of his coming to Rochester, he personally launched a diocesan-wide campaign for \$2,000,000 to help the Sisters of St. Joseph build what today all Rochester counts as the benefactor of the Nazareth College, attractively located in Pittsford.

Determined to raise a new Nazareth College that would be worthy of its faculty, its students, and its alumni, Bishop Kearney personally keyed the appeal for this new building in Rochester, and carried his appeal into the major areas of the Diocese: Auburn, Geneva, Elmira, and Geneva.

As a result of the Bishop's initiative, the new Nazareth College was ready for opening in January 1942. Since the opening of the new Nazareth in Pittsford Bishop Kearney has continued to be a generous and devoted friend and father of this important institution in the educational life of the Rochester Diocese.

However, as proud as he was of Nazareth College and its service in the education of Catholic women, Bishop Kearney was unhappy that there was no institution in the Diocese to provide higher education for Catholic men.

Although his dreams of establishing a men's college were halted by the outbreak of war, he lost little time, once the war had ended and some degree of normalcy had been restored, to restate his dreams as true.

In 1948 he called upon the Basilian Fathers, who conduct Aquinas Institute, to establish in Rochester a new Catholic college for men. He also chose the name for the new men's college. It would be dedicated to St. John Fisher, the martyred bishop of Old Rochester in England.

Once again Bishop Kearney himself personally spearheaded a diocesan-wide appeal for funds for the new college, and this campaign re-

quired the Bishop's personal attention. From his first days in Rochester, he was keenly aware of two facts: First, the Nazareth College for women, conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph, was housed in primitive quarters, or as he described them himself, "inadequate quarters," on Augustine street in Rochester. Secondly, there was no Catholic college for men in

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The Monroe County Board
of the
Ancient Order of Hibernians
and
Ladies Auxiliaries

We respectfully greet
His Excellency Bishop James E. Kearney
on the happy occasion of His
Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

