

Champion Of Catholic Education

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pledged in pledges totaling over \$1,200,000. The erection of St. John Fisher College, the Bishop told his Diocese, is "the most important undertaking of my first ten years in this Diocese."

St. John Fisher College, constructed on the rolling heights of the East Avenue area of Brighton, was formally dedicated by the Bishop in 1952. Architecturally, he believes, his men's college is one of the most beautiful buildings in the area. With a current enrollment of approximately 500 men, the youngest of Catholic colleges in New York State is gaining rapidly in esteem and prestige in the college ranks of the East.

NOT SO MUCH in the public eye, but very close to the heart of the Bishop, is that very important institution of higher education, St. Bernard's Seminary, the major seminary for the training of diocesan priests. Bishop Kearney is a frequent visitor at St. Bernard's, not only for the purpose of conducting ordinations, but also for offering his counsel and guidance to the young men who will carry on the priesthood of the Diocese.

Complementing the work of his own seminary, is the work of other seminaries established by religious communities whom Bishop Kearney has welcomed to the Diocese. These include the White Friars Seminary of the Carmelite Fathers at Auburn, Divine Word Society at Conesus, St. John's Seminary of the Atoneinent Fathers at Montour Falls, and St. Anthony's Minor Seminary of the Franciscan Fathers at Watkins Glen.

In all this expansion of the diocesan school system, the very important work of teacher training has not been overlooked. Last September 24, Bishop Kearney broke ground for the new \$1,500,000 Catherine McAuley Junior College which the Sisters of Mercy are currently constructing on Blossom Road in Rochester. This teacher training institution for the novice members of the Sisters of Mercy will be a welcome complement to a similar program which the Sisters of St. Joseph conduct in the Teachers Training Division of Nazareth College.

In the field of professional training, the Diocese can also boast of these schools which Bishop Kearney considers a very vital part of any Catholic educational system: St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing, Rochester; St. Joseph's School of Nursing, Elmira; and St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, Hornell.

Thanks to the constant management, interest and unflinching leadership of Bishop Kearney, the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Rochester today can pledge their students the best in education. In the Catholic school system which Bishop Kearney has developed with the loyal support of his people more than 50,000 students now can find that spiritual and intellectual training which they need to meet the demands of our American democratic society.

To Bishop Kearney, now marking his 20th anniversary as Bishop of Rochester, must go the major credit for the expansion and flourishing condition of the educational system of the Rochester Diocese: 33 elementary schools, 17 high schools, 3 schools of nursing, 2 colleges, 2 diocesan seminaries and over 50,000 students.

As the Chief Shepherd of the Rochester Diocese, who today watches an army of youngsters marching into new schools which have risen as a result of his own energetic enterprise, he can take consolation in these words of Holy Scripture: "They that instruct many unto justice shall shine as stars for all eternity."

SS. Peter & Paul's
offers Prayers
and
Best Wishes
to
Bishop Kearney
on his
Silver Anniversary

Thou
Art
A
Priest
Forever...

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