



Cardinal Spellman, who keynoted fund drive for St. John Fisher College and made first donation of \$25,000, is shown at campaign opening (1952) in the Eastman Theater with (left to right) Bishop Kearney and campaign leaders Joseph J. Myler and Otto A. Shults.

His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman

New York Cardinal who also was elevated to Episcopacy 25 years ago will preside at Bishop Kearney's Silver Jubilee Mass on November 7th in Sacred Heart Cathedral

By FATHER HENRY ATWELL

ONE OF THE most distinguished prelates of the United States, Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York, will preside at the Silver Jubilee Mass of Bishop James F. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester, on November 7th in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The Eminence, Francis Spellman of New York, will preside at the anniversary Mass at the request of his friend, the Bishop of Rochester.

Both prelates are celebrating their silver jubilees in the same year. They were ordained as priests in the Holy See in 1897.

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Cardinal Spellman is a strong supporter of the strong ties between the United States and the Diocese of Rochester.

THE CARDINAL'S story is a story of how the Bishop of Rochester played an important role in the rise to his present eminence in the hierarchy of the Church.

In 1925 the then Father Spellman, editor of Boston's Catholic paper, "Pilot," went as a pilgrim to Rome.

He attended a papal audience and was asked by Vatican officials to translate the message of Pope Pius XI into English for a group of pilgrims who were from Rochester. Pope Pius XI had a good command of English but preferred that his message be translated for him.

The future Cardinal's masterful memory and accurate translation of the Pope's words for the Rochester group so delighted His Holiness that he was invited to become the first American attaché at the Vatican. He was given the special responsibility of translating papal discourses and documents into English. His superior at the Vatican was the papal Secretary of State, then Cardinal Pacelli, who is now Pope Pius XII.

When Boston Cardinal O'Connell asked Rome for an Auxiliary Bishop, Father Spellman was named for the office. Cardinal Pacelli then consecrated him as bishop in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, in 1942.

At the time of his elevation to the rank of Cardinal, he was the first American to be elevated to the rank of Cardinal since the death of Cardinal Spellman.

He personally visited American troops before their historic invasion of North Africa and was in France shortly after D-Day to bring soldiers and chaplains the comforts of their religion.

He has traditionally given up the question of St. Patrick's Cathedral Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve to give the altar to some frozen front-line troops. U. S. servicemen everywhere that their Church has not forgotten them. Military leaders enthusiastically affirm that his presence has meant new courage to the fighting troops and spurred them on to fight for the rights they enjoy in America.

Whenever he went the noted prelate made it a point to learn the name of each soldier he met. From his office in New York, he would then pen a note to parents, wives, or sweethearts telling them of servicemen he met overseas.

On Christmas Eve, 1945, New York newspapers carried the headlines that Pope Pius XII had named Archbishop Spellman to the College of Cardinals.

The Cardinal-elect told reporters:

"My life, I think, will not change in any way, and my activities or the purposes of life will remain as always — to do everything I can to help in the salvation of souls."

The Cardinal's "red hat" symbol of his cardinal's rank from Pope Pius XII in February 1946.

SPEAKING FOR the bishops, priests and lay people of the New York province, Bishop Kearney greeted the new Cardinal when he returned to New York to offer his first Mass as a Prince of the Church in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Rochester's Bishop noted that the crimson cope and cardinal's robes had not changed the heart of the man who began his apostolate in New York in the pledge, "My life will be spent until it can be spent no more for the gaining of souls for Christ."

Bishop Kearney stated that the Cardinal was "happiest" when he could stand at the altar to lead his people in prayer and to obtain for them the graces they need for the salvation of their souls.

This priestly zeal has taken the Cardinal, said Bishop Kearney, from the little parish altars of New England and the convent chapels of this archdiocese out to the dreary wastes of Pacific Islands and the torrid sands of African deserts. He has offered the Holy Sacrifice on battle-scarred fields of Europe and in the ruins of ancient cathedrals.

"And now his first public act as Cardinal of the Church," said Bishop Kearney, "is to offer this same great Sacrifice at the new and beautiful altar he has erected in this historic St. Patrick's Cathedral."

These words echoed a statement of the Cardinal himself when in 1942 he spoke from the same pulpit, "My daily prayer, my lifelong work is to help bring peace to men and men to God."

Cardinal Spellman throughout his years in the Church's hierarchy has been noted for his American patriotism. He has consistently fought to expose the Communist menace threatening the American way of life. At a time when Reds had infiltrated into high government posts and when the American press in general ignored the tyranny imposed by the Soviets on their satellites, Cardinal Spellman delivered a scathing attack on the growing threat.

"Had I a hundred tongues, a hundred mouths, a voice of iron, I could not compass all the crimes of the men of sin as they wage war against the Man of Sorrows; neither can I recount the miseries perpetrated by these slave men, crimes which it is neither in my personal power to relieve or prevent," said the Cardinal.

He called the American people to cease their "ostrich like actions and pretences" to face the fact that a Communist flood was engulfing American key positions.

The Cardinal is totally convinced that the best defense against this Communist menace is an alert, dedicated citizenry. He is convinced that Catholic schools are the strongest bulwark to guarantee American democracy. He has spurred the construction of new Catholic schools, at elementary, high school, and college level, to provide a thorough Catholic and completely American education.

THIS CONVICTION of the Cardinal brought him a second time to Rochester to launch the fund campaign to build the proposed St. John Fisher College. He was the keynote speaker in the Eastman Theater for the opening of the drive in 1952. To give dramatic proof that he fully believed in the value of such a college, he presented the college with its first contribution, his own check for \$25,000.

In the following year, 1953, Cardinal Spellman gladly accepted the invitation to consecrate Rochester-born Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey to the ranks of the Catholic Hierarchy. The historic ceremony took place in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Cardinal Spellman comes to Rochester with a life's record that clearly manifests his personal zeal for souls. He fulfills by his life the vow he made when in 1939 he became Archbishop of New York. At that time he stated, "I shall pray as if everything depended on God. I shall work as if everything depended on me. My complete absorbing interests will be the salvation of souls — including all — and the welfare of my fellow man — excluding none."

He comes to Rochester with the fervent prayer that his personal friend Bishop Kearney, acclaimed by Catholics of this Diocese as their "devoted shepherd in Christ," may be blessed by God "Ad multos annos — for length of years." And this prayer will find a fervent "Amen" on the lips of thousands.

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