

Former Bishops Of Rochester

"My only hope is to be a worthy successor of the outstanding prelates who have conferred so much honor on the See."—Bishop Kearney, 1937

By FATHER HENRY ATWELL

BISHOP KEARNEY stepped into the formidable procession of his predecessors.

Four bishops before him had sturdily founded this diocese and built it into one of the most important in the nation.

"My only hope is to be a worthy successor of the outstanding prelates who have conferred so much honor on the See."

That was the prayer of the prelate who in 1937 stepped into the shoes of his predecessor, Bishop Kearney.

In the history of the diocese of Rochester, the 12 bishops who have preceded him have done their part. In 1808, the first bishop, John Jay, established the diocese. In 1814, Bishop Doane, who was the first American-born bishop, was elected. In 1847, Bishop Kearney was elected. In 1887, Bishop McQuaid was elected. In 1937, Bishop Kearney was elected.

These prelates have almost invariably been men of high character and high ability. Bishop McQuaid, who was the last of the prelates, was a man of high character and high ability. He was a man of high character and high ability. He was a man of high character and high ability.

The story of the diocese of Rochester is a story of the struggle for the soul of a city. It is a story of the struggle for the soul of a city. It is a story of the struggle for the soul of a city.

Then, in 1937, the Rochester diocese was established by Bishop Kearney.

BISHOP McQUAID

POPE PIUS IX chose the first general of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Newark, Father Richard J. McQuaid, to head the newly established Diocese of Rochester.

Father McQuaid's appointment in March 1868 brought to Rochester when it was still a little more than a frontier town.

He faced a Catholic population sharply divided by racial antagonisms and handicapped by a primitive society.

When he arrived in Rochester he found one Irish Catholic and five German Catholic parishes. Even the dead were buried in separate cemeteries.

To give striking proof that he intended to be spiritual father to all Catholics, regardless of race or color, Bishop McQuaid arranged two marriages, one of the obviously Irish son of St. Patrick's Church and a second immediately following in St. Joseph's Church for the son of a Jew. The day of his installation as Bishop of Rochester.

His views as a general in Newark gave him the moral expertise to organize a new diocese.

He legislated the basic "laws" of the Rochester diocese in two synods, held on October 14, 1873 and on June 14, 1887.

BISHOP McQUAID'S name won national recognition for his outstanding success in establishing "Christian Free Schools."



Venerabili Fratri
Jacobo Eduardo Kearney
Episcopo Roffensi in America

Dius DD. XII

Venerabilis Frater,
salutem et Apostolicam Benedictionem.
Suae scitu Dno fuit te a suscepto pastorali munere
quinque mox impleturum, esse laboris plena lustris, ex quibus
hinc unum in Diocesi Civitatis Lacus Calvi et quattuor in ista
Roffensi Diocesi moderanda consumptis; nec solumus hanc
facti ventis anniversariam memoriam silentio praeterire,
quin tibi, Venerabilis Frater, Drostia nota et salutare adpre-
cationes proferamus, tuam gregisque tui hinc per litteras

Pius pp. XII

This is the first page of the autograph letter which Pope Pius XII has sent to Bishop Kearney congratulating him on his Silver Jubilee in the Episcopacy and 20 years as Bishop of Rochester. English translations of the Pope's letter is published on page one of this Bishop's Jubilee Edition.

Today the Rochester diocesan school system, built on the solid foundation laid by Bishop McQuaid, is still a model for the United States.

With the backing of authorities in Rome, Bishop McQuaid revived in this country the policy of the Church for the education of children. Today's accepted motto, "A Catholic child belongs in a Catholic school," was little known and less wanted in 1868. Catholic schools were then few and far between and most required payment of fees which prevented all but the rich from attending.

To staff his free schools, Bishop McQuaid organized the Sisters of St. Joseph and began the present diocesan school system with three nuns and 600 pupils.

To support his first schools, Bishop McQuaid entered the lecture field.

mounting pulpits and platforms to defend his thesis and appeal for the necessary funds. Wherever he found it at all possible, Bishop McQuaid established parochial schools throughout the Diocese. As news of his work spread throughout the country, educators from all over the nation came to study his accomplishments.

Bishop McQuaid was also far in advance of his time in his plan to build a clergy for the future. Most priests staffing parishes of his newly established Diocese had been educated and ordained in Europe. To bring the training of future priests under his direct supervision, Bishop McQuaid established St. Andrew's preparatory Seminary in 1870 and in 1891 laid the first stone for St. Bernard's Seminary.

Like the parochial schools, the seminaries also were open to rich and

poor alike. "All the students are required to furnish in their brains," Bishop McQuaid said.

Bishop McQuaid also established Rochester's huge Catholic cemetery, Holy Sepulchre. He had a two fold purpose in this action. First, of course, was his concern to provide a fitting place to honor the faithful departed. Bishop McQuaid's devotion to the Poor Souls is legendary and he insisted that Holy Sepulchre be beautifully laid out and embellished with trees, plants and shrubbery. The Catholic chapel, a gem of architecture, represents his personal and constant habit of saying Mass and prayers for souls in Purgatory.

A SECOND objective of Bishop McQuaid in establishing the 400 acre (Continued on Page 79)