

Leader In Civic Life

(Continued from Page 47)

TIME AND AGAIN His efficiency earned to the soldiers to aid in the quest for victory. When the 42nd annual V-Day observance at Rosaries in 1945, he asked if the men of the service had responded magnificently with more than 12,000 men.

On the 15th of August, 1944, V-Day, the sons of women and children at the hospitals lined up to receive the medals. The storm gales of the night had given a path to a sea that this glacial ship might pass the way to final victory.

In the very center of his Diocese of Sampson, near the Navy established a training station and hospital. Here Bishop Kearney found the opportunity to give expression to his great devotion to the men in service.

Christmas eve of 1942 saw the Bishop offering midnight Mass for the men of Sampson. The huge base was the scene of annual field Masses which drew from 10,000 to 12,000. Then there were confirmations and the precious vows to men in the hospital, some of whom came back wounded from combat areas.

Finally the great victory came on August 14, 1945 and the Bishop said:

"Our hearts go today in deep sympathy to those whose wounds will never return. These for whom V-Day has come too late. May our beloved country prove itself worthy of the blessing of God worthy of the victory which He grants today."

But Bishop Kearney could not rest on the laurels of that victory. There was much to be done. The expanding population of his Diocese called for new parishes, new schools and the solutions to new problems.

Perhaps the community paid one of its greatest personal tributes to the Bishop when industrialists broke longstanding precedents to help him in the building of high schools and colleges to meet the rapid rise in registration. As one of them said not too long ago:

"How could you possibly refuse this appeal when you consider how the Bishop gave of himself, his time and personal funds so generously for so many worthy causes?"

ONE OF THESE community causes so dear to Bishop Kearney's heart has been the annual Community Chest campaign. Ever since his installation, he has been most active in this humanitarian effort to help the suffering and neglected.

Let an associate of his in these ventures, Supreme Court Justice Harry D. Goldman of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, tell the story:

"While it's hard to remember any worthwhile project that hasn't had his support, I think the one activity which stands out above the rest is his active participation and regular attendance at the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Community Chest. I have been a regular member of the Committee and, except during his illness, I cannot remember a meeting when the Bishop was not present and in which he did not take an active part in the discussion of the problems which were presented.

"In 1951 we determined on a goal of \$2,500,000. This amount may not seem large as contrasted with the more than four million dollars we raised last year, but it concerned all of us because it was \$300,000 more than the previous year's goal.

"All of us were perplexed with the selection of a speaker for the opening dinner meeting of the drive. Those of us who considered it were unanimous in our selection of the Bishop. Despite his busy schedule he quickly agreed to give the talk.

"In the 27 years in which I have



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

President's Greetings

TELEGRAM FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

IT IS A PLEASURE TO JOIN THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER AS THEY PAY TRIBUTE TO THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSECRATION OF THE MOST REVEREND JAMES E. KEARNEY, BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

IN THE SERVICE OF HIS CHURCH AND COMMUNITY, BISHOP KEARNEY HAS LONG DEMONSTRATED THE POWER OF HIS FAITH AND GOOD WORKS.

MY CONGRATULATIONS TO HIM.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER,
PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES.

participated in the Chest, no opening meeting speech approaches the dynamic talk which the Bishop made. He closed with the statement: "The word 'failure' is not in our lexicon. When he finished the thousand workers who had heard him rose and applauded him for at least five minutes. It was a fighting, inspirational talk which sent them out of the hall determined to do the job and they put the campaign over the top."

Perhaps another community leader summed up Bishop Kearney's outstanding ability on the speaker's platform when he remarked:

"The Bishop has the happy facility of saying the right thing to the right people in the right place at the right time."

This brought back memories of a post-war meeting of the county civil defense unit where plans were dis-

ussed to meet direct atomic attack. The principal speaker took several hours to outline in graphic detail the terrible consequences of such an attack and the measures which, of necessity, must be taken to alleviate it. Finally Bishop Kearney, who had weathered the whole procedure, was asked for a comment. In substance his reply went something like this:

"After hearing what an attack would mean for us, I think the best contribution I can make is a constant prayer that it never will happen."

One and all, the assemblage applauded vigorously.

BISHOP KEARNEY'S interest in worthy causes ranged over a wide spectrum. There was the annual Red Cross drive for funds which always has been prefaced by his personal appeal from diocesan pulpits. His

espousal of the Rochester Civic Music Association's annual appeal revealed his deep love for fine music and his determination to help keep the city in the forefront along musical lines.

The shamrock in the Bishop's lineage blossomed each St. Patrick's Day as he became the perennial principal speaker at the Knights of Equity banquet. His talks have become masterful examples of his brilliant Celtic wit and humor. Last March following his release from St. Mary's Hospital after an operation, the Bishop made this banquet his first port of call on the resumption of his civic activities.

During Bishop Kearney's regime the annual Masses and Communion Breakfasts for Rochester police and firemen became an institution. He often took these occasions to en-

(Continued on Page 50)

The
Womens Board of St. Mary's Hospital
and
Seton Branches
★
Bishop Kearney
★
May Your
Silver Jubilee
bring to you
Many Joys and Blessings
★