

Friend And Patron Of Nazareth College

Diocesan women's college cites fatherly devotion and guidance of Chief Shepherd during past 20 years to faculty, students and alumnae of "Nazareth family"

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EXCITEMENT RAN high at Nazareth College. News had come that Archbishop Bishop Mooney had come to admire and to respect as one of the truly great men of the time was to leave his post for Detroit. Our new Bishop was to be Most Reverend James J. Kearney. Press releases referred to him as a great Churchman, devoted to Catholic education and with genial and friendly personality.

Bishop Kearney had been in a territory where Catholics were in the minority so he had developed a missionary sense and had travelled wide seeking financial support for the churches of the Diocese. All this he sought to do in a friendly way.

Since that time Bishop Kearney has been present at many a truly beautiful occasion. He has written at only a few times to the Rochester Diocese. He has been the heart of the Nazareth family. He has made many a visit to Nazareth for the purpose of making a personal study of the life of the college. Just now he is in Rochester.

Each time Bishop Kearney visits Nazareth he brings with him the Mass of the Holy Spirit, giving us his blessing and his loving talk such as only a great shepherd can give to his young people.

The Bishop's presence at the commencement Mass, the annual state-of-the-college lecture, the annual Mass at our devoted Bishop's presence in the campus to speak words of encouragement and agreement with a final exhortation to be faithful to the ideals of the College. The joy of each Commencement Day has been heightened by his presence and made unforgettable by the strong stirring, loving last message to the graduates.

At each commencement he has in a way, as he has blessed each graduate, as if he has left the College campus. Between these two events, on various occasions, some religious, some social, have found the Bishop's presence, spreading the happiness of his presence always brings.

Now that his departure is coming early in the year to travel them in the traditional cap and gown worn at academic events. Candidates for the College Scholarship receive their Lady's medal from his hands.

The prestige which the Nazareth College Glee Club has achieved is due in no small measure to his love and appreciation of good music and his encouragement of these young singers at the annual concert, which under his inspiration has developed from a small affair in the College auditorium to a large gala occasion in the auditorium of the Columbus Civic Center.

Mother's Day finds him presiding at the impressive ceremony of capping of student nurses. May Day is a special occasion when from his busy schedule the Bishop sets aside time to offer Holy Mass and to lead in the recitation of the Rosary in the May procession from shrine to shrine. Sometimes the occasion is marked with even greater joy when the Bishop confers the Sacrament of Confirmation on students newly received into the Church.

It was Bishop Kearney who inaugurated the custom of offering Mass each year for deceased faculty and alumnae. This has become a cherished tradition with attendance increasing year by year.

OUR BELOVED Shepherd in spite of his pressing duties is always with us at the touchingly beautiful Christmas season when at Nazareth's altar he offers the Holy Sacrifice as the most precious gift in his power to give both faculty and students. On all of these occasions his message is a personal intimate one leaving us all



Breaking ground for new construction of Nazareth College.

ways assured of his care and his concern. Truly, he has shown himself without peer as a Spiritual Father.

Interspersed with the more important occasions are the little at home events when the Bishop comes to dine and spend the evening at Medaille Hall. Afternoon frocks and high heels replace the more usual college dress, and students prepare for an evening of gaiety and music and laughter.

These are the occasions when lasting friendships are formed which defy time and distance and make the Bishop and the Church forever dear to young women who hold a special key to the future of God's Kingdom on earth.

Here is Catholic Social Action par excellence! A Bishop exemplifying its every phase!

Intellectually, our Bishop has set an example of excellence in his sermons and addresses. We have envied his power to find the apt word and the felicitous expression, his capacity for pleasant conversation. His familiarity with great literature and his ability to quote long passages from the classics bespeak the riches of his mind and his early dedication to learning.

At the annual St. Thomas Aquinas symposium where students proudly present philosophical treatises on that great Saint's thought and writings,

the Bishop never fails to charm the audience with his clear summation as well as his keen appreciation of the afternoon's program.

Always Bishop Kearney shows himself the scholar, the lover of learning, an exponent of the tradition of the Church which has through the centuries sought to preserve and transmit the cultural heritage.

Our Bishop has never been too busy to interest himself in the social life of the College. On St. Patrick's Day he presides at the program of original-class skits in honor of the great Irish Saint and the rollicking, lulling gaiety of that occasion attests to the spontaneous happiness which the Bishop's presence lends because of the love, reverence, and deep devotion that these students have for their Bishop.

Their parents also, many of whom are not from his Diocese, have voiced like sentiments on many occasions, so that he has become known far beyond the confines of the Rochester Diocese as a truly remarkable Bishop and one to whom it is an honor to entrust their daughters for spiritual guidance.

The Father-Daughter Banquet, so largely attended that it threatens Nazareth's facilities to house it, finds Bishop Kearney beautifully extolling the inspiring role of the father of the Christian family so that fathers as well as their daughters come to acknowledge his leadership and place in the Nazareth family.

Nor does this leadership and interest cease when Nazareth's students leave its halls. The Bishop presides at the Alumnae Banquet, greeting and welcoming students of yesterday. It is he who has encouraged this annual gathering until now the various classes attend in such increasing large numbers that the event has easily become the highlight of the entire Alumnae program.

Emphasizing as nothing else the unique relationship that exists between Bishop Kearney and the Nazareth College family was the gift presented to His Excellency last January. The only Alumnae Banquet from which our Bishop was missing occurred during his hospitalization, so the Alumnae did the unprecedented thing of having a Nazareth College ring embedded in a crystal cube, set triangularly on a small mahogany base sent to him, thus enclosing him in this "Ring of Friendship," which is exclusively for College Alumnae.

So Bishop Kearney belongs to Nazareth not only by virtue of his authority as Bishop but more importantly by adoption, a rare compliment for any leader, spiritual or other wise.

To so great a Churchman, to so treasured a Friend, to so truly a Shepherd and Father, we at Nazareth College, say profoundly from our hearts "Ad Multos Annos."