

The Bishop Of Rochester

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Although he steadfastly opposes the state's complete usurpation of human welfare care, the Bishop readily admits that when individuals or volunteer groups are unable to provide for the needy then the state should take over the task.

In all this the Bishop speaks not only good Catholic social teaching but also sound American experience and sense.

THE SPIRITUAL life of the laity has been given tremendous impetus during Bishop Kearney's twenty years in the Rochester Diocese. And this is due to his own spiritual example and guidance.

Tireless in efforts to improve his people's spirit of devotion he takes every opportunity to bring them closer to Christ in the Tabernacle. Always he seeks to develop in young and old a deep affection for Christ's Holy Mother.

The Bishop's Eucharistic privileges granted in 1956 by Pope Pius XII were a source of great joy to Bishop Kearney who shares the Holy Eucharist's desire to increase attendance at Holy Mass and reception of Holy Communion.

The Bishop of Rochester was one of the first members of the American Hierarchy to make practical use of the Evening Mass Privilege granted by the Pontiff in 1953. Already a marked increase in devotion and an admirable tradition have resulted from the Bishop's encouragement of the Evening Mass on First Fridays and special occasions.

The Pope's more recent decree (1956) relaxing the traditionally strict Eucharistic Fast has been acclaimed by Bishop Kearney as heralding a "New Era of Daily Holy Communion." As a result of the evening Masses and the new legislation about fasting, he reports that "the number of Holy Communion in the Diocese has grown geometrically."

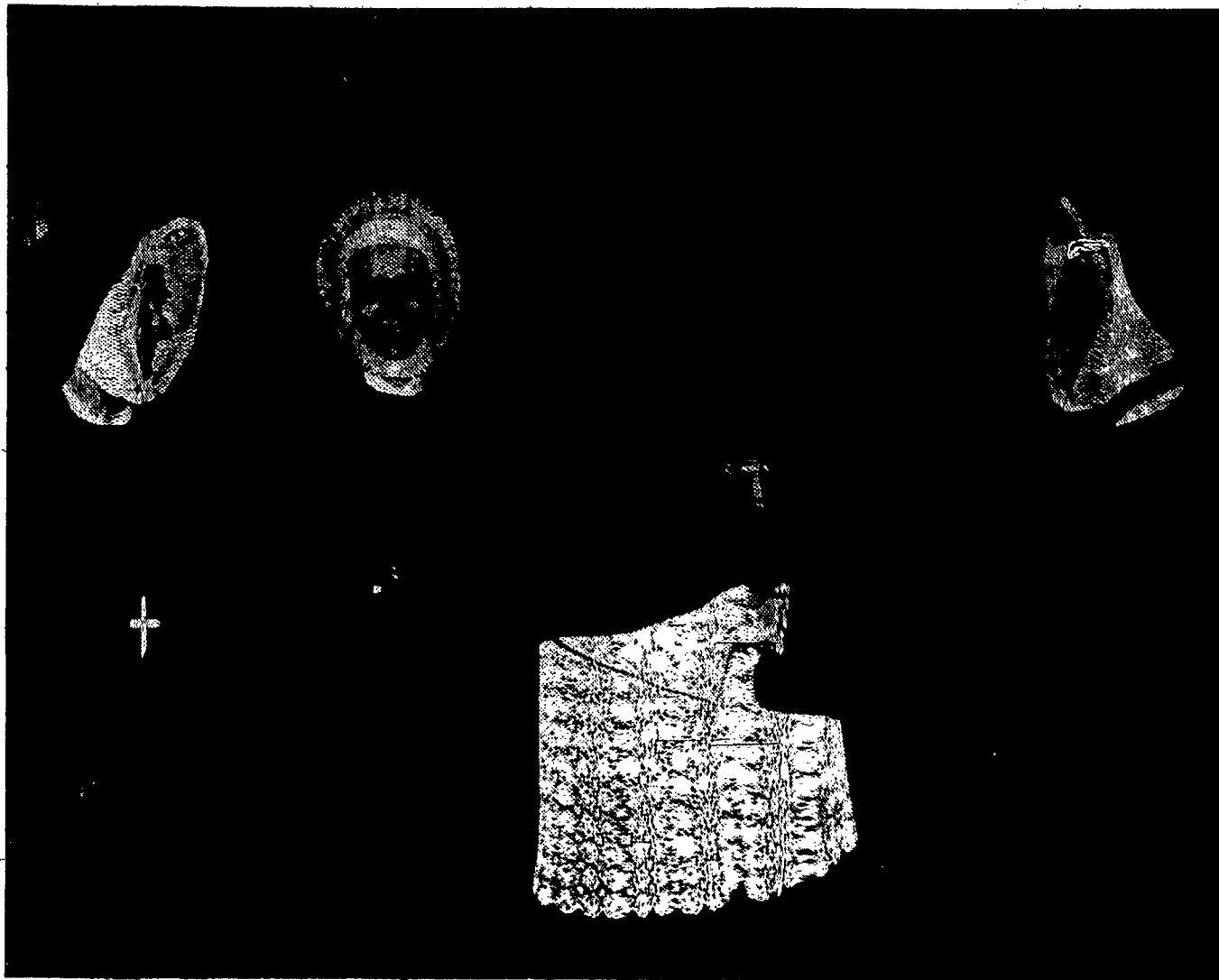
LOOKING BACK today, many of Bishop Kearney's efforts can be seen fitting into a pattern or long range crusade for increasing Eucharistic devotion among his people. Here must be mentioned his vigorous sponsorship of the Men's Nocturnal Adoration Society, his establishment of the First Friday Club for men and the First Saturday Club for women, and his hearty endorsement through Vatican decree giving the Daily Mass League official status in the Diocese.

In 1940 he pioneered the celebration of Family Communion Sunday, a practice which since has gained widespread popularity in other dioceses throughout the nation. To his observance, which asks family groups to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of the Holy Family, Bishop Kearney adds a human touch which annually proves a boon to hotel restaurant business. This is his suggestion that Mother "be taken out" to breakfast by her family following attendance at church.

Bishop Kearney's notable zeal for spreading Eucharistic devotion among his people is also matched by his eagerness to intensify Marian devotion.

Prominently featured on the Bishop of Rochester's coat of arms is the heraldic emblem of the Blessed Virgin—her crown and monogram. For Bishop Kearney this armorial profession is more than a pious gesture. This is a sincere dedication of his episcopal career to the protection and service of "Our Lady," as he likes to call Christ's Mother.

Processions, May Day rites, Rosary celebrations and other devotions in "Our Lady's" honor always find Bishop Kearney on hand to lead the people. Her many feastdays on the Church calendar find him planning ahead so that every opportunity may be seized for honoring God's Mother



Convent Nuns were welcomed to Rochester in 1948 to conduct spiritual retreats for lay women.

and drawing the faithful closer to her.

Typical of his numerous directives asking the churches of the Diocese to mark some Marian Feast is his request that the Blessed Virgin's altar be "richly decorated" with flowers provided by the faithful themselves and that they all receive Holy Communion.

TWICE HE HAS issued pastoral

letters promoting devotion in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1947 he established the First Saturday Devotion in honor of her Immaculate Heart in all churches of the Diocese. This action has resulted in an ever-increasing number of Catholics attending Mass in honor of "Our Lady" on the First Saturday of every month.

Again in 1948 he asked that the solemn consecration of the Diocese of Rochester to Mary's Immaculate

Heart be held in all churches on Sunday, August 22 (the Feast of the Immaculate Heart). Consecration to her Immaculate Heart was requested by the Blessed Virgin during her appearances at Fatima, Portugal.

Sometimes the Bishop expresses concern that the popular interest in Fatima, as a shrine site, "may tend to obscure the very definite message which Our Lady gave to the world."

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ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

OWEGO, N. Y.

ST. MARGARET MARY'S CHURCH

APALACHIN, N. Y.

"BISHOP KEARNEY

may your

SILVER JUBILEE

bring to you

Many Joys and Blessings"