

The Bishop Of Rochester

(Continued from page 11)

This message, he warns, is Mary's plea for devotion to her Immaculate Heart, the need for penance, the power of the Rosary, and the consecration of all nations and individuals to her Immaculate Heart."

On coming to Rochester Bishop Kearney showed immediate and deep affection for his bishop-namesake (by reason of title, St. John Fisher, the martyred Bishop of Rochester, England. Here again the people have responded generously to their Bishop's inspiration by sharing his devotion to St. John Fisher and accepting the heroic martyr as a spiritual patron.

Since 1941, following Bishop Kearney's request to the Holy See, the Feast of St. John Fisher on June 22 has been a special feast for the Diocese of Rochester here in New York State.

A VERY IMPORTANT phase of Bishop Kearney's program for development of the spiritual life of the laity has been his establishment of retreat houses for men and women.

First permanent facilities for men's retreats were provided in 1941 when Bishop Kearney invited the Redemptorist Fathers to open Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House on a 14-acre estate at Seneca Lake outside Geneva.

When the Redemptorist Fathers expressed the desire for new quarters in Rochester where the retreat program could be carried out on a year-around basis, not possible in Geneva, Bishop Kearney was thinking along the same lines. He immediately urged the acquisition of the former Baptist Seminary building on Alexander Street in Rochester.

Acting on the Bishop's advice and supported by a diocesan-wide collection, which he ordered in all churches, the Redemptorists purchased the former Baptist institution and, following extensive remodeling, opened it in June 1950 as the Notre Dame Retreat House.

The layman's retreat work has enjoyed great progress at Notre Dame where last year alone almost 3,000 men from all corners of the Diocese came to spend three days of recollection and prayer.

WHILE PUSHING the development of a retreat house for men, Bishop Kearney also had dreams of providing similar facilities for the women of the Diocese. This opportunity came early in 1948 when the state-of-the-art Todd mansion, one of Rochester's show places, was given to the Diocese.

Immediately the Bishop offered this home as a convent to his old friends, the Religious of the Cenacle, a cloistered community of nuns who specialize in conducting spiritual retreats and days of recollection for women. The Bishop had come to know the value of the work of the Cenacle Religious during his early New York days when he conducted retreats at the Sister's Cenacle of St. Regis.

He welcomed, therefore, their arrival in Rochester in June of 1948 to open a new Cenacle in the former Todd mansion. The Rochester Cenacle has proven, as the Bishop knew it would, "a most happy opportunity for Catholic women of the Diocese.

He is especially happy over the fact that since the Cenacle's opening a few years ago, the number of women attending closed retreats has grown from 528 to 2,500 in the current year. Popularity of the Rochester Cenacle already has overtaxed its facilities and forced the Sisters to undertake a \$10,000 expansion.

The Bishop of Rochester places a high importance on his two retreat houses. "These are very accessible centers of religious life," he explains, "where men and women will always find the doors open for meditation and counsel in their problems."

The retreat house, the Bishop feels, gives men and women a chance "to



SALT LAKE CITY — Bishop Kearney greets Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, now Pope Pius XII, at Salt Lake City airport during his 1936 visit to United States.

be alone with God and their consciences" and to hold serious meditation on the state of their souls. And meditation, he says, "is fast becoming a lost art in this modern world which has many sources of recreation and enjoyment. Many people cannot stand being alone with themselves."

In opposition to this distraction of the world, the Bishop continually urges his laity to take the opportunity of making a closed retreat. "We must," he says, "learn to turn our

minds in on ourselves and sit alone with God."

And more and more, the Catholic laity are following their Bishop's advice, as reports from the retreat houses testify.

HIS FAMILIAR attendance at the annual Communion Masses, breakfasts and annual dinners of parochial, diocesan and alumni organizations gives Bishop

op Kearney many opportunities of providing spiritual guidance and counsel to these Catholic lay groups.

In the same way he gives special encouragement to those lay groups which enjoy a common cultural, fraternal or vocational interest. College alumni, doctors, nurses, lawyers, Police, Fire and Postal Holy Name groups continually vie to obtain the Bishop as their guest speaker. If possible, he tries to join with all of them, even though it means some rapid maneuvering particularly when different groups meet at the same time and in different places.

Not infrequently, Sunday morning finds the Bishop rushing from one hotel to another, and even from one floor to another in the same hotel, in order to deliver a message before Communion breakfasts.

The St. Monica's Society, a group which the Bishop himself inspired, consists of mothers of priests and seminarians. These women meet every First Friday at a special Mass which the Bishop celebrates and follows with a sermon.

MEMBERS OF the legal profession seem to enjoy a special place in the affections of the Bishop of Rochester, who twelve years ago inaugurated in Rochester the "Red Mass." So called because it is celebrated in red vestments, the "Red Mass" invokes the blessing of God on the work of the courts.

Held annually in St. Joseph's Church and celebrated by the Bishop himself, the "Red Mass" has become a very popular tradition for Rochester's legal fraternity. Distinguished jurists and attorneys, both Catholic and non-Catholic, are among those who come to hear some spiritual counsel and receive the Bishop's blessing.

The annual Community Chest Masses, which campaign officials and workers are invited, is another tradition instituted by the Bishop in behalf of Rochester's most gigantic venture in human welfare.

All these efforts, especially when

(Continued on page 25)

Bishop Kearney

...may your
Silver Jubilee
bring to you many joys
and blessings

Priests and People of
HOLY FAMILY PARISH
85 North St.
Auburn, New York