

The Bishop Of Rochester

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ester citizens, including Protestants and Jews, immediately came forth and asked that they might have a part in the public tribute which Catholics were planning for their Bishop. "We believe that Bishop Kearney is a great man", said the spokesman for this committee, "and we want to honor him too."

Perhaps the most impressive example of the community-wide acceptance of Bishop Kearney's leadership came in 1952 when he was leading a diocesan-wide campaign for funds to build four new Catholic high schools. This appeal saw corporations and business firms break precedent to contribute generous sums to support the building of these Catholic high schools. Executive officers, many of them non-Catholics, of some of America's best known firms not only approved the gifts from their own companies, but in a generous act of good will personally joined with the Bishop by attending the campaign dinners in the Culver Road Armory.

The generous action of these firms and business houses was no doubt a gesture of good will to the Catholic citizenry and a vote of confidence in the work of Catholic schools. In a more personal way, many Catholics were convinced, the support of these industrial leaders was an expression of tribute to the civic leadership of the Catholic Bishop of Rochester.

His keen sense of responsibility to his fellow citizens finds him taking leading roles in the promotion of community interests, social welfare, culture, and security. No voice in behalf of the Community Chest or the Red Cross is more eloquent than his. No patronage of the Rochester Music Association is more appreciative and sincere than his. Leaders in Civilian Defense and Safe Driving programs can always depend upon the Bishop of Rochester to emphasize the importance of these undertakings.

HIS FELLOW CITIZENS recognize in the Bishop of Rochester a man consumed with a passionate love of the United States. Love of America has been one of the favorite themes of the Bishop not only in his public addresses, but in his sermons from the pulpit. And his efforts to stir the fires of patriotism in the hearts of others have not been in vain, as is evidenced by the testimony of so many of his fellow citizens whom he has inspired to cherish this land of the free. "The Bishop," they say in gratitude, "is every inch a patriot."

But patriotism for the Bishop of Rochester is more than a matter of words, or singing the Star Spangled Banner, which he can do as well as anyone.

On the Sunday following Pearl Harbor he ordered the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in all his churches and issued a statement placing "all the spiritual, moral, and material forces of the Diocese at the disposal of the government in the crisis with Japan."

He also joined with his fellow bishops and archbishops of the United States pledging full support to President Roosevelt in the difficult days ahead.

The Bishop outlined the spiritual contribution which he felt Catholics should make to their country in a "prayer crusade for victory" which he ordered conducted in all diocesan schools. "The mobilization of spiritual powers," he said, "is the serious obligation of our churches and our institutions at this time. The power of prayer must not be neglected in this crisis. Every act of self sacrifice, every Mass offered, every visit to the altar is a contribution to victory and peace."

Uppermost in the mind of the Bishop all throughout the war were those young men and women who donned the uniform of their country. In a special Bond message, he said: "We have given the flower of our young manhood to the service of our country. We must follow them with our prayers and also our material assist-



WAR DAYS — Confirmation rites at Sampson Naval Station.

ance to feed clothe, and arm them; also to care for them in sickness and in injury. That takes money, and it is our moral obligation to furnish money for our boys."

His interest in our fighting men also saw him send fifty pairs of his own diocesan priests to serve as chaplains with our armed forces.

His spiritual and patriotic concern

for our fighting men brought him many times during the war to the huge Sampson Naval Training Center at Seneca Lake. Confirmation ceremonies, hospital visits, and a deep dedication made the Bishop a familiar war-time figure at Sampson. He was found celebrating Mass on the gloomy Christmas Eve of 1945 for the lonely trainees. More than in the traditional setting of his own cathedral.

In his talk with the service men, Bishop left no doubt that he was in the cause of America and was interested in the Faith. For example, at the annual Fourth of July Field Mass at Sampson, he told 12,000 men that the crucial battle in the war at sea was that of Christianity and paganism.

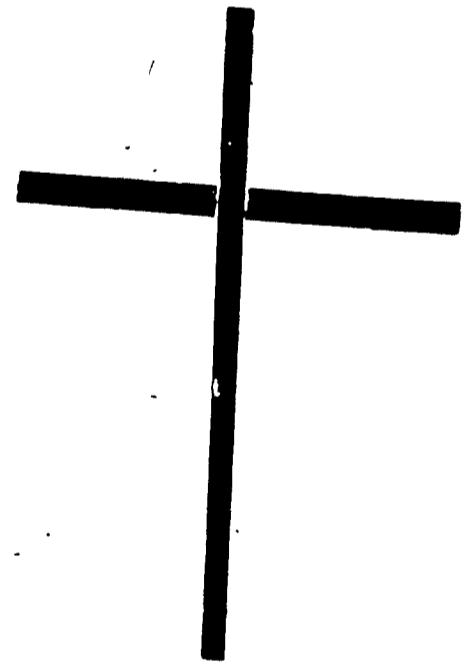
At the war's end, August 14, 1945, the Bishop joined others in an expression of gratitude and relief for victory. In the face of the widespread jubilation, he reminded the soldiers of those who had made the supreme sacrifice.

THE PERSONAL of Bishop Kearney has long since become part of the Rochester tradition which includes many distinguished and accomplished citizens. And he wears his mantle of patriotism with an ease and confidence more so than any other citizen. His fellow citizens, upon the spot, Rochester listens to him with respect and recognition, not only as Bishop of Rochester but as a man whose own personal life is a model of and eloquence.

His facility in speaking to a group of all those who are called upon to make public speaking appearances. "You know," he says, "one of his own boys speaks so easily and fluently that I could do it."

A half dozen or so times a day to different groups on different topics, and all presented with the same inspiration and eloquence.

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WE of HOLY CROSS
offer our prayers and
best wishes to Our
Dear Bishop on His
Silver Anniversary