

'These Are My People'

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claves and villages throughout the twelve county Diocese. Total costs have soared into a multi-million dollar figure not yet computed. Yet Bishop Kearney has insisted throughout that all these new structures are but bridges to link God with his people.

THE CHURCHES, newly constructed or newly decorated, the Bishop frequently reminds the people, are homes for a living Saviour who dwells in the tabernacle as a Friend to welcome them in their needs. Schools, ultra-modern in design and construction, are first of all tests to shape young minds and hearts according to the pattern of the Sacred Heart.

The Bishop's concern for the proper decoration of his Cathedral is convincing proof that he views all material accomplishments only as channels for supernatural aid. Bishop Kearney wanted a "modest statue" of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to stretch forth divine hands in blessing "over the entire Diocese."

The majestic figure of the Sacred Heart now above the Cathedral altar is a dramatic symbol that divine hands have indeed blessed the Diocese under Bishop Kearney's leadership.

HAND IN HAND with the material progress has come a noted increase in attendance at daily Mass, reception of Holy Communion, special devotions, Christian living and new apostolic programs of the laity.

The Bishop of Rochester was one of the first prelates in the American hierarchy to make practical use of the evening Mass privilege granted by Pope Pius XII in 1933, encouraging pastors to say Mass in the evening when this would be better served thereby.

Virtually every priest of the Diocese regularly schedules an evening Mass on the monthly First Friday, on holidays and other feasts of special devotion.

The Pope's historic relaxation of the centuries-old Eucharistic fast in 1936 was hailed by the Bishop as opening a "new era of daily Holy Communion."

He also issued clear directions to the clergy to observe in full detail the revised Holy Week rites simplified and rescheduled by the Vatican for the greater convenience of the people.

With Bishop Kearney's approval the Laymen's inspired "Daily Mass League" last year gained official Church approval and members are enriched with special indulgences granted by the Pope.

The Retreat movement for deepening the spiritual life of his people has received the Bishop's special attention. He invited the Redemptorist Fathers to establish a retreat house for men, first opened in 1912 at Geneva and since 1930 in larger quarters on Alexander Street, Rochester.

He provided similar facilities for women retreatants by inviting the Religious of the Cenacle, a cloistered community of nuns,

to open a retreat house in the former Todd mansion on East Avenue, Rochester.

AT PARISH ceremonies, banquets of diocesan organizations, and in civic gatherings, the Bishop always remembers he is a priest, a "shepherd of souls," and uses these occasions to give his people spiritual guidance and direction.

The oft-repeated question, "Is the Bishop going to speak?" is a spontaneous tribute of the people to the prelate Divine Providence has placed over them to guide them toward heaven and companionship with God.

In order to reach his flock scattered across twelve counties Bishop Kearney frequently "takes to the air" by broadcasting his message as part of the Family Rosary for Peace, a nightly program of station WSAJ at 7 p.m. His prayerful recitation of the Rosary and his meditation on the mysteries has inspired hundreds of families of the Diocese to inaugurate the practice of family prayer in their homes.

He also takes time to visit the sick, especially to bless throats in traditional St. Blaise day rites at St. Mary's Hospital, to call at St. Joseph's orphanage or St. Ann's Home for the Aged.

His obvious concern for his people has been reflected in their deep regard for him, manifested particularly every New Year's time when thousands crowd his home on East Avenue to wish him season's greetings.

His enthusiastic response to his appeals for increased spiritual activity, or material generosity has made the Rochester Diocese an enviable one in the annals of American Catholicism. Priests and lay people from other dioceses frequently visit here to see how it's done in Bishop Kearney's Diocese.

BISHOP KEARNEY now nearing his 74th birthday was born October 2, 1864, at Red Oak, Iowa, the son of William Patrick Kearney and Rosina O'Doherty Kearney, both of whom came from Ireland. When he was two years of age his parents decided to move to New York City.

He was educated in that city's public schools and his playground was the area now occupied by Grand Central Station. He served Mass at nearby St. Agnes Church on 43rd Street where his vocation to the priesthood first asserted itself.

His parents died in the early 1920's but his two brothers still live in New York: William, an attorney, and Leo, formerly assistant superintendent of the New York public school system. Leo's son, Donald, has named one of his two sons in honor of the Bishop, James Edward.

Prior to his definitive decision to become a priest, Bishop Kearney attended New York's Teacher College and in 1903 taught at public school 25 in East 5th Street in the heart of what was then a Jewish neighborhood.

His childhood dream of serv-



The Bishop of Rochester begins each day at the altar praying for his people.

ing God in the priesthood grew stronger during his days as a teacher so he enrolled as a student at St. Joseph's Seminary, at Dunwoodie near Yonkers, the archdiocesan seminary.

HIS RECORD of priestly service to God and the Church thus began fifty years ago in New York City. Twenty-five year old James Edward Kearney went to St. Stephen's Church on 25th Street in a rite he himself was destined later to perform for others, the young deacon became a Catholic priest, ordained to his office by Auxiliary Bishop Thomas F. Cusack, September 19, 1908.

His first assignment was as assistant curate at St. Cecilia's Church, New York, where he remained for 19 years. During these years he was given added duties as superintendent of Catholic schools in the Bronx and Lec-

Musical Program

Golden Jubilee Mass of Bishop Kearney

Sacred Heart Cathedral — September 19, 1938 — 10:30 A.M.

Processional	Laudate Dominum	Ebner
Introit	Salus Animum	Gregorian
Kyrie and Gloria — Mass in honor of St. Benedict by J. I. Miller		
Gradual	Clamaverunt	Petter
Offertory	Iustorum Animae	Witt
Supplementary Offertory	Per Unum Hominem	Mercanti Petter
Sanctus		Muller
Benedictus		Gounod
Agnus Dei		Muller
Communion	Quod Dico Vobis	Gregorian
Recessional	Hallelulah Chorus	Handel

He was named Bishop of Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1932, and received consecration to this rank on his birthday, also his mother's birthday, and the anniversary of the prelate who gave him the episcopal dignity. Cardinal Hayes admitted Bishop Kearney to the hierarchy in St. Patrick's Cathedral, October 23, 1932.

The Salt Lake diocese was then a mission outpost, vast in territory, meager in the number of Catholics, and faced with financial hardships. His tireless activity inspired the 33 priests of that diocese to make the 10,000 Catholics in Utah an oasis of faith in that stronghold of Mormonism.

His own personal sincerity won the respect of the people of Utah, including the governor himself, George H. Blood. By appealing for aid in New York City churches, Bishop Kearney obtained the funds needed to support his priests in the west.

As pastor in New York, so as bishop in Utah, he saw his ministry abundantly blessed. Today the Utah diocese counts 81 priests and a Catholic population of 34,000, three times the totals of 1932.

When the Rochester Diocese was in need of a shepherd following Cardinal Mooney's appointment in 1937 as Archbishop of Detroit, Pope Pius XII selected the young prelate of the west to be fifth Bishop of Rochester. The story of his twenty-one years here is well known and it is the story retold in a hundred different ways all of which reveal the Bishop as a true priest of God who has made the Scriptural phrase to come true in everyday life, "Thy people shall be my people."

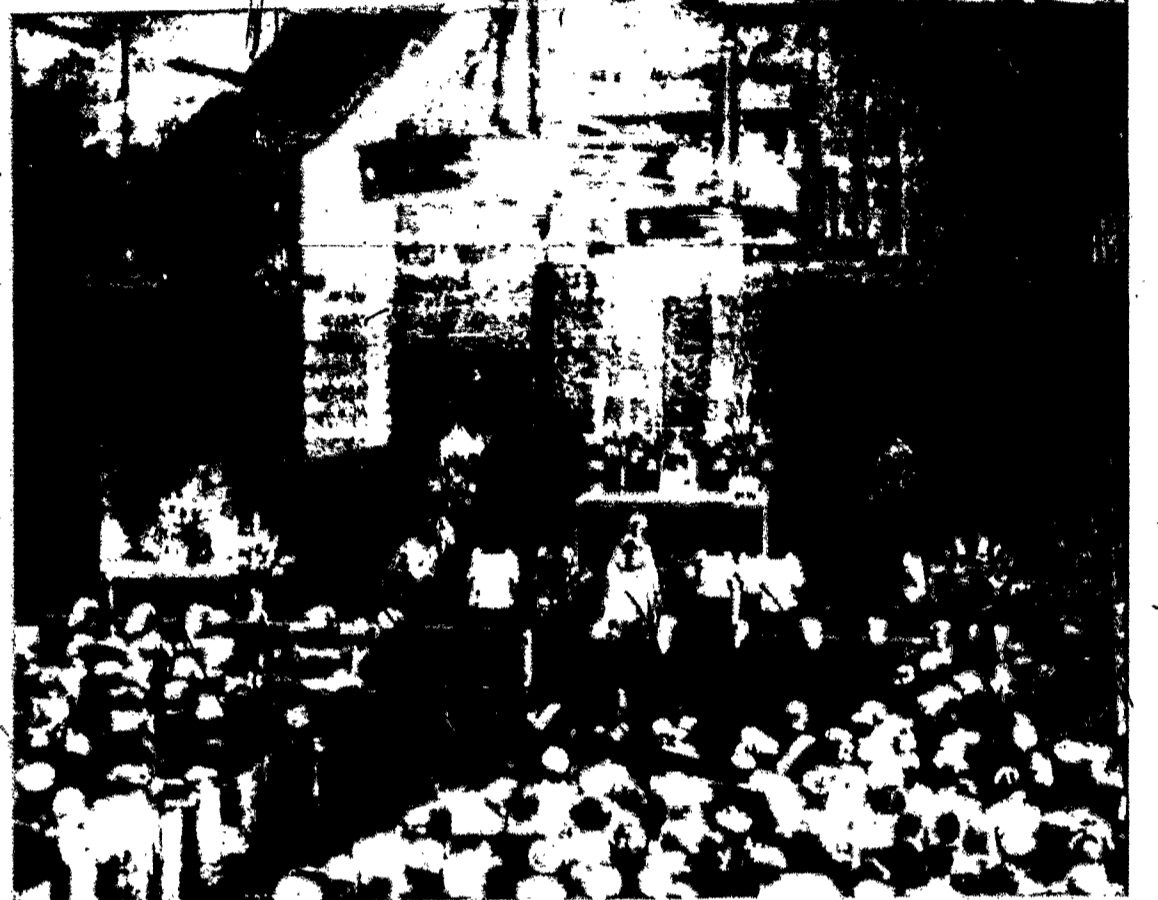
"These are my people," Bishop Kearney can say of the 357,000 Catholics in this Diocese, and again as many more of other denominations he can surely call his friends.

He has attained honors from men and from his Church but perhaps his most cherished title is the one given him by a three-year old waiting with his parents at the Bishop's New Year's reception. "That's my Bishop," the youngster announced for all to hear.

It reveals the strong bonds which bind Bishop Kearney to his people. Old and young and in-between, they revere him personally as "my Bishop" because they know this shepherd of their souls is like the great Good Shepherd who knows and loves His flock. "These are my people," says the Bishop of Rochester and each in his heart is glad that he is "my Bishop."



Thousands annually flock to the Bishop's home at New Year's time to greet him and receive his blessing.



St. Vincent's, Corning, one of nearly fifty new churches built since Bishop Kearney came to the Rochester Diocese in 1937 and reflecting his concern for fitting temples for the worship of God.



Cardinal Mooney, Bishop Kearney's predecessor as head of the Rochester Diocese, last year visited the city to congratulate the Bishop on his episcopal jubilee. Auxiliary Bishop Casey, was secretary to both prelates.

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reg. 1.50 3 pairs, 3.75, pr.

T—Walking Sheer, reg. 1.65 1.41
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