

'Christ, Center of Teaching'



Bishop Kearney — 'our hopes, our prayers.'

Bishop Kearney dedicated the new three million dollar high school which bears his name in the entrance lobby. He read the Church's ritual prayer for the blessing of a school as a preface to his talk on the type of education to be given in the new school. Following is the text of his talk:

The embodiment of the Catholic Education shall be Christ Jesus, and His personality shall dominate this school.

He dominates our philosophy of life and of education, because in Him are united all the attributes of perfection to be found in mankind. In ordinary human beings one or other of these qualities may indeed be met with but it is seldom that the presence of one estimable characteristic is not offset by the absence of others equally desirable.

In His sacred Person, Christ unites the two natures, divine and human. In Him, heaven and earth are brought together. In Him, the majesty of the King of Kings is associated with the humility of the servant of the servants of God. In Him are combined the wisdom of the serpent and the simplicity of the dove. In Him we find the gentleness of the babe and the courage of the hero.

He is "weak and humble of heart," but as occasion arises He shows what strength of character implies. His enemies more than once felt the sting of His righteous wrath, yet He was a master in the art of self-control.

Christ is at once the Way and the Truth; He is the Teacher of Faith and the Guide of reason. He is kindness and goodness, benevolence and sympathy, the deepest sympathy and the sublimest selflessness. His love for His fellow-man knows no bounds; it embraces all and is denied to none. Yet it shows none of the weakness, none of the wavering of human love.

His mercy impelled Him to grant pardon to the worst offender, yet His own life was marked by an austerity and a spirit of penance that even the holiest of men have found it difficult to approach.

We shall not fail in forming men and women of character in this school if we build our religious education around Christ as a center. If He is our ideal of perfect character, we look to Him to find our supreme source of inspiration; if we would character and life—our own and our students—after His character and life, we shall attain the two-fold purpose of a Catholic high school.

The self-control, the high ideals, the sublime standards of conduct that the imitation of Christ as an ideal proposes, cannot but ennoble, cannot but inspire with a desire for sanctity, the students we train.

The important point is to establish an ideal in the student's intellect, Christ, and then, through the intellect, to reach the will of the student.

Christ must be made a living personality. One whom the student is eager to know better, to love, to depend upon, with Whom he may share his joys, his sorrows, his hopes, his fears, his weaknesses, his triumphs. He should be impressed with the doctrine of the life of God in his soul when he is sanctifying grace.

Prayer should be made attractive, a necessity. We cannot stress too much for the student the need of prayer, the love of prayer. There, in mature years, if sin should claim him, he will remember that the gate of the way back to God and happiness is always open to him, if he will but enter it through prayer. The personal love of Christ which he learned to value when under our guidance in school will be for him a saving memory. Then he will think again of Christ as his Friend.

If he is weak, he will look to Christ for strength; if he is stained with sin, he will turn to the infinite sanctity of Christ, his Friend, for cleansing. Then the fire of Christ's love will inflame his cold heart; the mercy of Christ's Heart will dispel his misery, the memory of the patience of Christ, which he learned here, will give him courage to begin again.

I am convinced that if we make Christ the center of our teaching; if we depict Him as the Dynamic Teacher, Friend, and Redeemer, which He is, we shall make Him essential to the complete happiness of our students; then, when the storms of life rage

around them, they will call to Him over the waters, and He will come to them, and they will know the peace of Christ.

If they catch from us the spirit of Christ, they will be our day apostles. Then we shall find them in their homes, in offices, in professions, in the government, making moral principles known and respected.

We may turn out brilliant graduates. We may produce successful men of business. But we must prepare our students by a life of virtue, by a life of grace to be true followers of Christ, potential citizens of Heaven. Then, indeed, we shall have met the challenge of Catholic education.

It is for this, then, that the Catholic student should be dedicated to the Church. Not because the Church gives him a building in which to study, not because the Church has produced great names and great civilizations in times gone by. But because today, in these times and in this civilization, the Church gives him a complete theory of life; a consistent system of education, the only philosophy which adequately meets the problems of man and nature—and certainly the only philosophy which gives its students that God who should be the joy of their youth, the strength of their age, the life of their immortality.

To these high ideals we dedicate this school in the lines of Longfellow's Republic:

"Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er
our fears,
Are all with Thee—are
all with Thee."



Bishop Kearney puts crucifix in place in entrance lobby of new high school named in his honor.



Daniel Oberst — school emblem to Bishop.

Gratitude from Principal

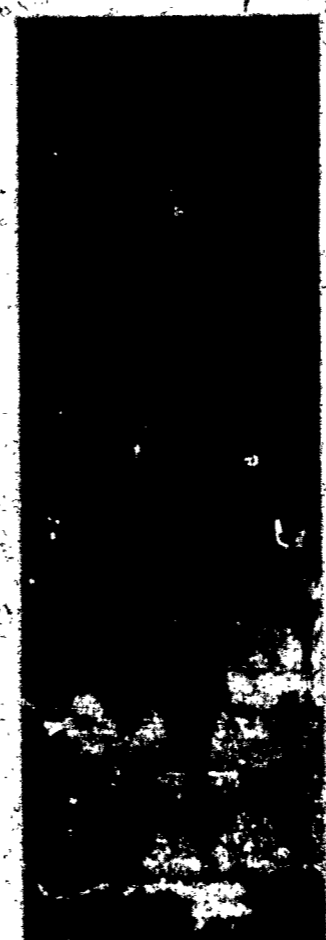
Following is the text of the talk by Brother Joseph Clark, principal of Bishop Kearney High School, at the dedication ceremony.

My first duty here this afternoon is to convey to His Excellency the prayers and good wishes of our Brother Superior General, Brother Clancy, from Rome. In that this is the first co-institutional Catholic high school that the Christian Brothers of Ireland are administering, Brother Superior General would have wished to be here personally, but distance and poor health have prevented this.

As principal of the high school which bears your name, Your Excellency, it is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Christian Brothers of Ireland, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the faculty and students of our school to say a most hearty "thank you" to you, Bishop, our Father in Christ, our benefactor, our friend. Your fatherly interest, concern and encouragement in this our pioneer year is deeply appreciated.

Titles sufficient to comprise a litany have been bestowed upon His Excellency, our Bishop, demonstrative of his concern for his hospital, his home for the aged, the Nocturnal Adoration Society so dear to his heart. However,

COURTIER-JOURNAL
Friday, May 3, 1963



BROTHER CLARK principal

"the life of education" is the one above all others that I feel will be engraved upon the crown of gold which has been prepared by the angels, and which will be placed on his brow by our Lord, Himself, on the judgment day for like Christ, his love for the little ones knows no bounds. The Diocese of Rochester and Catholic education have been indeed fortunate for your 46 years of guiding influence.

I would be remiss on this occasion were I not to thank Reverend Mother Pascal, Mother Provincial of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, for her presence here today. Through Mother Pascal I wish to express my gratitude to Sister Mary Louis and the Sisters of our faculty for their devoted labor and zeal for everything which takes place within our school.

May I also, on behalf of all here at Bishop Kearney High School thank all the wonderful people of Rochester, whose dedicated work and sacrifice in the diocesan campaign have made this high school a reality. You truly see here today the magnificent school as the fruit of your labor. I can only assure you all the daily prayers of the faculty and students of this school all the days of its existence—and into eternity.



Two of the thousands.



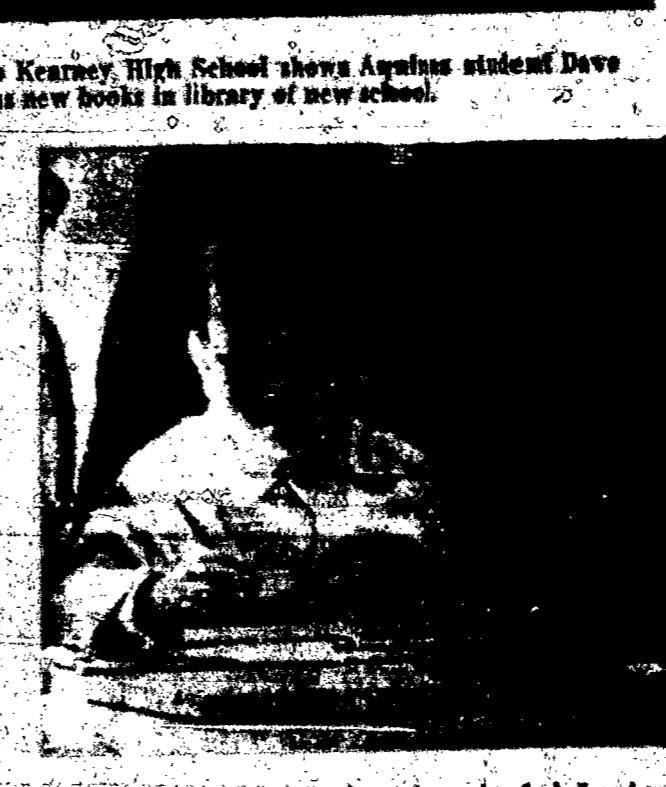
Monsignor James C. McAuliff gives Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at close of dedication ceremony at Bishop Kearney High School Sunday afternoon.



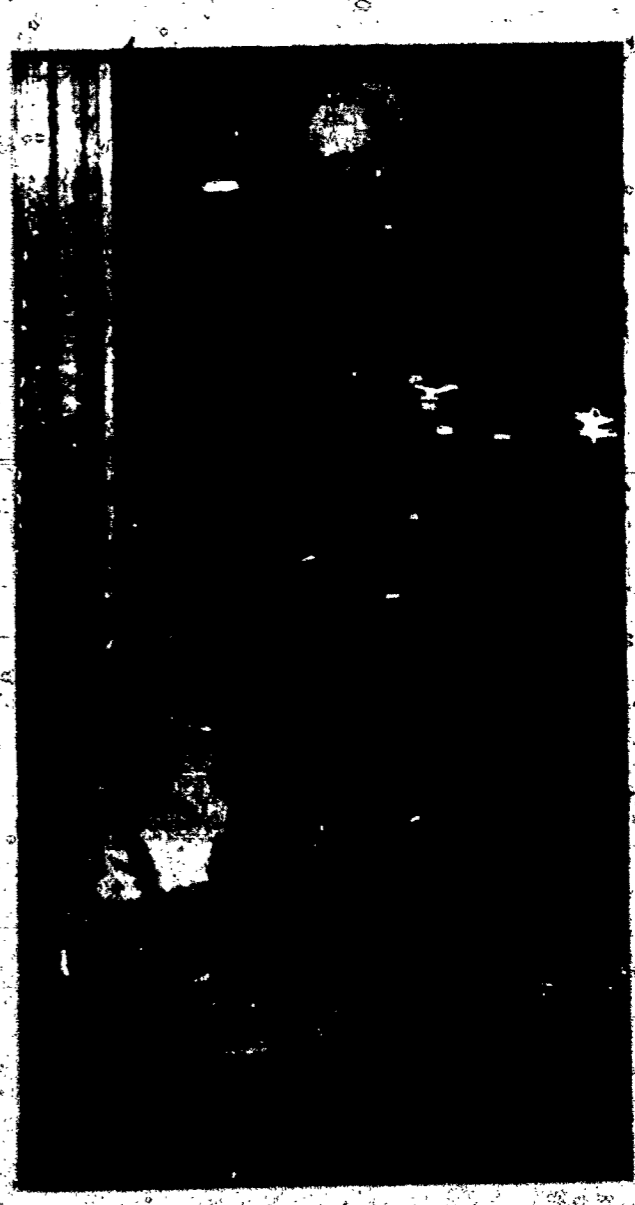
Donna Wahl of Bishop Kearney High School shows Aquinas student Dave Broskins new books in library of new school.



Susan Thompson takes place of principal at office desk in Bishop Kearney High School. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson of St. Rita's parish, West Webster.



Ricky Schultz gets a preview of mechanical drawing lessons at new high school. He is child of Mr. and Mrs. James Schultz of St. Margaret Mary parish.



Clara Borton studies portrait of Bishop Kearney at new school named in his honor. She is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Asher Borton of Holy Trinity parish, Webster.

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