Dramatic Symbol Of Needed Unity

A new spiritual leader will be consecrated to his task in Christ Episcopal Church in solemn rites tomorrow morning.

Rev. George W. Barrett will become the fourth bishop to head the Episcopalian diocese of Rochester, comparable in area to the Catholic diocese.

Symbolic of the chasm which still divides Christians will be the obvious absence of Roman Catholics at tomorrow's ceremony. Precisely at that moment when our neighbor kneels in prayer to ask God's blessing, we must draw away from him—not because of any discourtesy but because of a heritage which requires us to worship the one God at separate altars.

Despite our separation, however, Catholics and other Christians can certainly pray that God will bless every man in his efforts to lead souls toward heaven.

Pope John in his unique position at the summit of Christendom has endeavored through the Vatican Council and by his own personality to restore to Christendom its ancient unity.

Perhaps in the years immediately following the sixteenth century's breakup of that unity, Catholics could not in conscience look with friendship on those they considered rebels and heretics. Today, however, Pope John prefers that we look not to the past to blame anyone for the tragedy but to look ahead with hope. In this look to the future, isolation is no longer possible.

Anglican theologian Oliver Tomkins said, "Whether as warning or encouragement, offence or model (to many of us it is always something of both), Rome stands above all our attempts and strivings as an embodied unity, and is on that account impossible to ignore."

And with equal logic, as they cannot ignore us, so we cannot ignore them.

It is our task, by prayer and mutual charity, to aid our fellow Christians in that quest which is also our own — the fulfillment of our divine Saviour's own prayer for His disciples "that they may be one that the world may believe."

"Bless, o Lord, this cross . . ."

The Eucharist King presides at dedication rite.

Vatican Probes For Freedom

The Vatican probed for freedom behind the Iron Curtain in two top-level meetings this week.

Poland's Primate Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski came to Rome and promptly met Pope John. Equally promptly rumors began to circulate that his visit indicated a concordat with the Communist Polish government was in the offing to ease the increasingly tense Church-State situation in that country.

Observers also noted that the Polish prelate stopped on his way to Rome at Vienna where he met Cardinal Franz Koenig. He recently made a one-day trip to Budapest to meet Cardinal Joszef Mindszenty, symbol of resistance to Hungary's Communist regime.

Did Cardinal Wyszynski come to Rome to welcome the Hungarian Cardinal when he leaves his seven years of exile in the American legation in Budapest to come to Rome as did Ukrainian Archbishop Josef Slipyi?

Lending credence to this aspect of the case was the meeting in Budapest of Vatican envoy Monsignor Agostino Casaroli with high-ranking government officials. This meeting could not have ignored what the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano in 1957 called "the Mindszenty problem" — a problem not just for the heroic prelate but for his nation, the United States and the Vatican.

As expected, none of the participants in these meetings had any comment to make. Even the meetings were shrouded in more-than-normal secrecy.

Vatican radio did comment, however, that efforts to work out some form of freedom for the Church was "enjoying support in certain Iron Curtain quarters who have for some time been in favor of a realistic reconciliation with the Church of Rome."

Proponents of a vigorous anti-Communist position find Pope John's new approach to the Kremlin giant as disturbing. We think the Pontiff is aware of a hazard greater than even Communism—and that is stagnation.

He is utterly realistic in realizing that attitudes and positions deemed necessary or expedient in the past have lost what value they once had and only serve now to jeopardize a faith that has proved itself more hardy than its opponents ever suspected it to be. But why risk an out and out battle where lives and souls are at stake? Pope John prefers a diplomacy he is confident is somehow shaped by the Holy Spirit of God.

'Who but God can Estimate the Impact of these Schools?'

Following is the text of Bishop Casey's talk at the dedication of Cardinal Mooney High School, Greece, Sunday, May 5.

BROTHER JOHN DONOHUE
seniors for 4 years

Today sees a dream become a reality. A little over two years ago, this site was a cornfield. Now there stands on it a magnificent school capable of accommodating 1,800 boys and girls and two separate faculties.

It is just as well that those who begin a major project don't know all the difficulties to be encountered before it is finished. When the tentative decision was made back in 1959 to build two new high schools, there were some pertinent questions to be answered.

Where should the schools be located?

Should they be coinstitutional or not?

How large should they be?

What would be the design?

How much would they cost?

Could the funds be raised by a campaign?

Could the deadline be met and the schools opened on the date promised the people?

And, most important, could the diocese find four religious communities willing, in spite of the sacrifices involved, to direct and staff these schools?

Now that these questions have been answered and the schools have been officially blessed, there should be only one theme for this dedication talk — gratitude to Almighty God and to all who made these schools possible. Looking back over four years, one can now see more clearly the gracious hand of Divine Providence guiding every step of the way. God's blessing certainly has rested upon this project from the beginning to the end.

As we looked at these pioneers, forerunners of many generations of students to be graduated from this school, we felt that all the effort and sacrifice which went into the planning and construction of this school, and its sister school over in Irondequoit, were worthwhile. Who but God can estimate the impact that these two schools will have in future years on the lives of thousands and thousands of Monroe County youngsters and the influence for good these graduates will exert in turn upon the lives of others, due to their Christian training?

In these two schools and across many like them throughout the country, the Catholic youth of today and tomorrow will learn to revere this country and the liberty and freedom for which it stands. Moreover, they will learn this truth in an atmosphere in which God is recognized as the Creator and Redeemer of the human race.

We Catholics are committed to the educational philosophy which says that man has a basic need for religious as well as secular knowledge. We believe it is dangerous to isolate religion from general education. We believe that education is basically incomplete if it forbids a teacher to mention the Creator while teaching young people about the things that He created. The most basic of all educational freedoms, we hold, is the freedom to teach youth about God.

In this school, the pupils are taught the secular arts and sciences but more important, so far as their eternal salvation is concerned, they learn to know God better, to know their religion better, and they learn by practice to live it. Here the whole curriculum of studies centers upon God and is built upon His Son, Jesus Christ, Who is the Foundation of our faith. God will be in the classrooms of Cardinal Mooney High School and the angels of light will stand guard over teachers and scholars, and all will be well with this school.

For this blessing we can be humbly grateful to God. Our gratitude also goes out today to many persons. The litany of thanksgiving would be much too long were we to call out the names individually. Only two persons will be mentioned by name, the fifth Bishop and the fourth Bishop of Rochester.

Those of you who were present at the dedication ceremony last Sunday sensed the happiness of Bishop Kearney as he blessed the beautiful new school named in his honor. In his talk, the Bishop stressed the basic reason why we build Catholic schools — to prepare our students by a life of virtue, by a life of grace, to be true followers of Christ. Bishop Kearney saw the critical need for these two schools and his was the decision to build them.

This school also bears a great name — that of His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Mooney. To gauge the stature of the Cardinal and his influence on the Church of America, we recall what an Archbishop of the Midwest said recently about him, "This man was one of the greatest churchmen, priests, bishops or cardinals, which the Church in the United States will produce during this century."

The fourth Bishop of Rochester, later the first Archbishop of Detroit, was a simple man, plain in his tastes, matter of fact in manner, yet he could talk easily with popes and presidents, with emperors and kings. Wherever he worked, whether in the States, or in India and Japan as the Pope's personal representative, Edward Mooney was always a priest and an educator.

After the Cardinal left here for Detroit in 1937, Rochester remained close to his heart. Several times before his death, he intimated that it would please him to have some lasting memorial of his stay in this diocese. Now he has it. How appropriate it is that the name of the man who was the founder and principal of one of the earliest diocesan high schools in America, the Cleveland Latin High School, should be given to the newest high school in the diocese where he labored for four memorable years. Cardinal Mooney will be an abiding inspiration to the teachers and the boys and girls who will attend the school which is proudly bears his name.

The ritual of the blessing of the school cornerstone which was used here two years ago last September includes this prayer: "Bless, O Lord, this creature of stone, and grant by our prayer that all who contributed generously toward the construction of this school may enjoy health in body and healing in soul." The phrase: "All who contributed generously toward the construction of this school," refers not only to money but to service as well. It covers a lot of territory and is the theme of the last part of this talk.

Our gratitude goes out to the officials of the Town of Greece. They have cooperated wholeheartedly with the diocesan and school authorities since the very beginning, giving their approval to all the requests made of them.

Some of you had the opportunity before the ceremony to inspect the various features of this building. You saw a new idea in Catholic education, the coinstitutional plan, put into practice, and you observed that it is possible to build a large school within the concept of sound economy, without sacrificing functional features that cut down construction and maintenance costs. To build this school, we had to operate within the limits of a very tight budget, and so we are indebted to the architect, and to the contractors who collaborated with him, for giving us a school which came in at its estimated cost, and which is well worth every cent the Diocese of Rochester paid for it.

Monroe County has a unique community spirit which makes visitors coming from other sections of the country envious. "The Democrat and Chronicle," in a recent editorial on the new high schools, referred to it this way. "The two schools," the editorial said, "are a testimonial both to Catholic dedication to education and a symbol of community achievement."

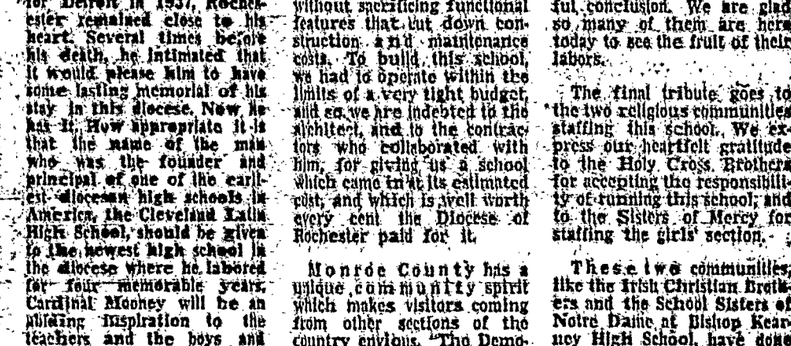
Our morning newspaper summed it up very well. You had here in Monroe County a community effort to build the schools. Everyone pitched in, non-Catholics and Catholics alike, individuals and business corporations. By their charity, they gave to these two buildings the spiritual light and glory of noble religious purpose. God will reward all the donors and all who worked on the drive in his own way for what they have done.

A special debt of gratitude is due the priests of the diocese. It was their generous gift of $110,000 to Bishop Kearney for the new high schools which gave the needed momentum to the campaign of 1960. For the last three years, the pastors and assistants of Monroe County, despite their own pressing parochial problems, have worked thousands of hours on the follow-up phase of the campaign, giving the people the leadership required to carry this project toward a successful conclusion. We are glad so many of them are here today to see the fruit of their labors.

The final tribute goes to the two religious communities staffing this school. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the Holy Cross Brothers for accepting the responsibility of running this school, and to the Sisters of Mercy for staffing the girls' section.

These two communities, like the Irish Christian Brothers and the School Sisters of Notre Dame at Bishop Kearney High School, have done this at considerable sacrifice. Despite their own personnel shortages, they have arranged to give this school a devoted and competent faculty. Many dioceses throughout the country wish to build Catholic high schools but are not able to do it because there are no religious communities available. Brick and mortar alone do not make a school. How fortunate are the Catholics of this area that four religious communities, all of them experienced in the field of secondary education, were ready and willing to give life to the cold walls of these schools.

As we commit Cardinal Mooney High School to the supervision of the Holy Cross Brothers, and also of the Sisters of Mercy, it is fitting that we conclude with the words of today's liturgy: "May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, descend upon this school, upon all who come here, teachers and students, and upon us all, and may it remain for all time."



Bishop Casey — gratitude to all

Frank Webster, nephew of Cardinal Mooney High School's principal Brother James Madigan, takes a look at glittering kitchen equipment at new high school.

Tantum ergo — hymn to the Blessed Sacrament.

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Brothers, nuns and laymen at dedication ceremony