

# 25th Year of Family Communion Rite

Catholic families of the Rochester Diocese will kneel together at altar rails to receive Holy Communion this Sunday.

An estimated 200,000 will receive the Blessed Sacrament to mark the feast of the Holy Family in the first diocesan-wide devotion of 1965, a year dedicated to Mary the Mother of the Church.

This Sunday's family rite will mark the twenty-

five observance of the Holy Family feast in this way, a yearly custom inaugurated by Bishop Kearney in 1940.

In a letter read in parish churches this past Sunday, the Bishop called the faithful to repeat the "very beautiful liturgy — the Family Communion."

In the past quarter of a century, the feast has been a strong factor in establishing family religious

programs of prayer and reception of the sacraments.

The Bishop in his letter said, "It has been a very rewarding experience for your Bishop to hear from the various parishes the story of the large numbers of families walking together to the altar rail to receive the Lord together in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist."

Priests of the Diocese testify to the "miracles of

grace" worked through the heart-warming appeal of the annual rite.

Another tradition of the feast, also proposed by Bishop Kearney, is to make mother "queen for a day" by taking her out to breakfast following the family Communion.

Several parishes have scheduled breakfasts following Sunday Masses and family devotions later in the day.

## Happy New Year to Bishop

An endless line of well-wishers greeted Bishop Kearney at his home Sunday afternoon. Nearly 2000 visitors wished him a "Happy New Year" and received his blessing in return. He took extra time with the youngsters, many of them bundled in snow suits. The Bishop's "open house" at New Year's time is a custom he began when he first came to the Rochester Diocese in 1937. Here are some of the throngs who greeted the Bishop.



## Italian Mass Said in Milan

Milan—(NC)—By special permission of Pope Paul VI, Archbishop Giovanni Colombo of Milan has anticipated and celebrated the Mass of Epiphany in Italian.

Because the liturgy in Milan is celebrated in the Ambrosian instead of in the Roman rite, the translation to be used for the whole of Italy could not be used here. This rite is used in all but 34 of Milan's thousands parishes, plus 55 parishes in the diocese of Lugano, Switzerland, 29 and seven respectively in the Bergamo and Novara dioceses in Italy.



# The Catholic COURIER

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## 'Mother of Church' Patron for Year 1965

Extreme viewpoints voiced by many authors and spokesmen in the Church in recent months were the target of sharp rebuke from Bishop Kearney in a New Year's pastoral.

He said the widely publicized "weird results" of their opinions are "injuring the traditional confidence of our people in their faith."

(Full text of pastoral is on page four.)

Although the Bishop did not name anyone specifically, he did identify the extremists as being among "ecumenical writers... modern theologians... liturgists."

He said they "soften the concept of heresy... soften the concept of sin... ask us to minimize devotion to Mary and the Saints."

To counter their hazard, the Bishop has dedicated 1965 in the Rochester Diocese to the Blessed Virgin Mary under her new title "Mother of the Church."

He said her messages at Lourdes and Fatima emphasized that the Rosary is "the most acceptable form of supplication for her aid."

Bishop Kearney referred to the present era as one that is "out of joint" and stressed the need for responsible leaders "to set it right."

Pope Paul, at the closing rite of the Vatican Council's third session, gave our Lady the title "Mother of the Church" as a devotional expression of the Council's highly technical decree on the nature of the Church of Christ, a decree which completed a study begun by the first Vatican Council in 1870 but only partially acted on at that time.

Bishop Kearney's designating a year of devotion follows a tradition begun six years ago when he dedicated 1959 as a Eucharistic Year. This followed previous years of devotion designated by Pope Pius XII to honor Our Lady of Lourdes and a Holy Year. Other diocesan dedications have included 1960 to the Sacred Heart, 1961, the Precious Blood; 1962, St. Joseph; 1963, St. John the Evangelist and 1964, the Sacred Heart.

The Bishop's pastoral was read at all Masses in parish churches of the Rochester Diocese Sunday, Jan. 3.

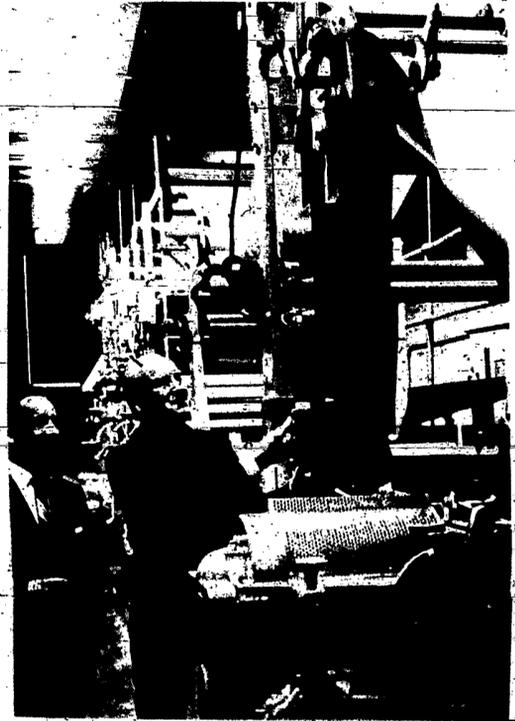
A similar warning against modern theology was sounded by the European Evangelical Alliance at a conference in Berlin this week. The Protestant organization cited for special censure the controversial Lutheran theologian, 80 years old Rudolf Karl Bultmann, whose efforts to "demythologize" the Bible, the Alliance charged, questions "the inalienable truths of the Holy Scripture."

"Therefore we can no longer keep silent. We feel obliged to warn publicly against a theology which threatens the substance of our faith," the Alliance document continued.

A theology and ministry which is based on an "existentialist interpretation of the Holy Scripture" is not only insufficient but misleading and must be contradicted because of its reduction, misinterpretation and often even falsification of elementary biblical truths," the declaration said.

The Alliance statement is expected to add new fire to the controversy about modern Protestant theology and especially Dr. Bultmann's views.

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Bishop Kearney presses start button after blessing new offset press at Christopher Press where Courier is printed. Christopher Press president and owner Martin Q. Moll stands next to the Bishop.

## New Offset Gives Courier New Look

How do you like the Courier's sharp new look?

If all the right buttons have been pushed, and all the right knobs turned, and all the gears have been meshed in the right sequence—then you're holding what's probably the clearest looking Courier you've ever had.

The Christopher Press at 35 Selb St., where the Courier is printed, installed the massive printing machine this month.

The uniquely equipped press is designed to print 24 page newspapers, 48 page tabloids, advertising circulars and up to 96 page catalogues with con-

siderable full color capacity. Martin Q. Moll, president and owner of The Christopher Press, explained.

He stood next to Bishop Kearney for the blessing rite Wednesday morning just prior to the Courier press run.

From now on, the Courier will return to its former schedule of being printed on Thursday for delivery on Friday. Advertisers and correspondents are advised to submit glossy print sketches or photos for their ads and stories.

For a look back in time at the people and places who played a pioneering part in the Courier's history, see veteran staff member Thomas O'Connor's article on page 12.

Local news begins on page 9. This is a one-section, 14 page paper this week.

## Reply To Post Article

This article, written by Very Rev. Msgr. Salvatore J. Adamo, executive editor of the Camden diocese newspaper, the Catholic Star Herald, comments on a recent Saturday Evening Post report on the Catholic Church in the United States.

A current article in the Saturday Evening Post by Edward R. F. Sheehan is the most recent analysis of what's right and wrong with American Catholicism. Touted as a "monumental, searching and reverent report, ten months in the making," the earnest reader may wonder how anyone could hope to put together a fair picture of the American Catholic Church, its people and hierarchy after a ten-month journalistic journey!

Let me highlight just one example. Incredible was the short-sight given to Cardinal Spellman, dean of the American episcopate, whom he represented as a shallow bureaucrat whose chief claim to fame lay in attacks on the movie "Baby Doll" and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Obviously he didn't do much homework, for had he even glanced through Gannon's "The Cardinal Spellman Story" he would have hesitated to dismiss Spellman's achievements so cursorily.

I wonder if he knew that the dispute with Eleanor Roosevelt had its origins in the Cardinal's tremendous devotion to the parochial school system, a devotion that is shared by many millions of his fellow Catholics?

It was not a personal squabble but a debate, admittedly emotional at times, on whether or not parochial school children were to be treated as second-rate citizens. One may disagree with the Cardinal without dismissing the conflict as the product of personal pique. Later on it was Cardinal Spellman who again championed the cause of federal aid to education for parochial school children on an equal basis with public school children at a time when the rest of the hierarchy had hesitated to act, perhaps because the first Catholic President occupied the White House.

The Cardinal's alarm proved to be a lifesaver to most Catholic parents who cherish the parochial school system which recently, in some dioceses, has been threatened with gradual dissolution because it is so burdensome. How much greater would the burdens be today had Cardinal Spellman not rallied

(Continued on Page 2)

### Priests' Evening of Reflection

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Sunday, Jan. 10

at St. Patrick's

Victor

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Meditations by

Rev. Albert Shamon

### All Pupils Included In LBJ Plan

Washington—(RNS)—President Johnson has asked Congress for \$1.5 billion for federal aid to education, earmarking it primarily for pre-school and elementary school students in poverty areas and to assist students from needy families. The program would embrace students attending public, private and parochial schools.

Without using the term "parochial" in his State of the Union message, President Johnson referred to "private" schools, a term the Administration is using to designate any school not in the public systems.

## Final Council Session To Begin September 14

Pope Paul announced Monday that the fourth and final session of the Vatican Council will open in Rome September 14.

The world's Catholic bishops face a mountain of decisions at the autumn Council — religious liberty, Catholic relationships with non-Christians, modern marriage problems, the Church's role in today's complex world, and new methods of interpreting the Bible.

It is expected that a parliament of bishops will be organized to continue the work of the Council after its formal closing.

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