

# Holy See Gives Bishop 'High Praise' For Pastoral on Mother of the Church

## The Catholic COURIER

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THIS NO. SHOULD BE PREFIXED TO THE ANSWER

3339 Massachusetts Avenue  
Washington 8, D.C.  
February 23, 1965

Most Reverend James E. Kearney, DD  
Bishop of Rochester  
50 Chestnut Street  
Rochester, New York 14604

Your Excellency:

It is always a pleasure for me to convey the grateful appreciation of the Holy See. In this case, it is His Eminence, Cardinal Cicognani, who has requested that I express to Your Excellency his warm appreciation for your pastoral letter entitled: "Mother of the Church—Patron for 1965."

The Cardinal Secretary of State has words of high praise for the letter and commends Your Excellency on your pastoral zeal and concern for the integrity of doctrine and the filial devotion of the faithful towards the Mother of God.

To the above, may I add my personal heart-felt congratulations.

With sentiments of esteem and very best wishes I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Apostolic Delegate



SUPREMA SACRA CONGREGAZIONE

DEL

SANTO OFFIZIO

Prot. N. 183/65

(Nella risposta si prega citare questo numero)

Dal Palazzo del S. Offizio

24 February 1965

Your Excellency:

The Most Rev. Apostolic Delegate recently sent the holy Office a copy of Your Excellency's Pastoral letter to the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Rochester, dedicating the Year 1965 to Mary, Mother of the Church, and expressing your concern over some recent extreme views now being circulated, freely and widely, to the detriment of the faith of many.

In the name of this Congregation, whose province it is, by disposition of the Supreme Pontiffs, to safeguard faith and morals, I desire to congratulate Your Excellency for this Pastoral Letter and assure you of my prayerful wish that Mary, Mother of the Church, will procure a wealth of blessings and grace for Your Excellency, and all the priests, religious and faithful of the Diocese of Rochester.

With expression of my own personal sentiments of high esteem, I am

Very sincerely yours

His Excellency  
The Most Rev. James E. Kearney  
Bishop of Rochester

Pictures, other stories  
See pages 2 and 4

Three of the highest ranking prelates of the Catholic Church have written Bishop Kearney to praise him for his pastoral letter dedicating 1965 to the Blessed Virgin Mary as "Mother of the Church" and warning against extreme viewpoints circulating in the Church at this time.

Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani of the Holy Office, Cardinal Amleto Cicognani, Vatican Secretary of State, and Archbishop Egidio Vagnoni, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, conveyed the Holy See's praise to the Bishop in personal letters to him.

Bishop Kearney reports he has also received scores of letters literally from around the world from bishops, priests, nuns and lay people who said his letter voiced their own growing concern for trends in the Church they consider dangerous to the faith.

Cardinal Cicognani cited the Bishop's "pastoral zeal and concern for the integrity of doctrine" and Cardinal Ottaviani also referred to "some recent extreme views" which are being circulated "to the detriment of the faith of many."

Archbishop Vagnoni is Pope Paul's personal representative in the United States and chief liaison official for the American bishops and the Vatican. He succeeded Cardinal Cicognani in the office in 1960 when he had been Delegate to this country for twenty five years.

Cardinal Cicognani as Secretary of State handles affairs between the Holy See and civil governments. During his years as Delegate in the United States he visited Rochester on several occasions.

Cardinal Ottaviani heads the Vatican's Holy Office which guards Catholic doctrine. The office dates back to the 13th century when it was established by Pope Innocent III and was long known as the Inquisition. It battled heresy and still has authority to condemn books which it judges dangerous to the faith, listing them on the famed Index of Prohibited Books.

Cardinal Ottaviani has been one of the most outspoken prelates at the Vatican Council, served as secretary of the Council's Strategic Theological Commission and on many occasions warned the world's bishops at St. Peter's that several of their proposals verged on heresy.

Monsignor Joseph Fenlon, an adviser at the Council and a member of the Theological Commission, wrote in the January, 1963, American Ecclesiastical Review of which he was then editor, "In the light of true history it will be seen that the mission of the Cardinal Secretary of the Holy Office at this latest Ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church has been truly providential." Monsignor Fenlon, now a pastor of

Here is the text of Bishop Kearney's pastoral dedicating 1965 to the Blessed Virgin Mary as Mother of the Church. In it he warns against extremists in the Church whose opinions are dangerous to the faith of Catholic people. It is reprinted from the January 7th Courier for those who might have missed it.

My dear People:

It has been our custom to dedicate each year to some special devotion. We have had years dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament, to the Sacred Heart, to Our Lady of Lourdes, to Saint Joseph, and others.



This year I shall take the dedication from the closing address of the Vicar of Christ at the recent session of the Ecumenical Council. The year will be dedicated to the "Mother of the Church."

We know only too well that the "opening of the windows," as Pope John expressed it, has had some weird results. What concerns us especially is the danger of injuring the traditional sturdy confidence of our people in their faith. Extreme ecumenical writers ask us to soften the concept of heresy. Extreme modern theologians ask us to minimize devotion to Mary and the Saints. What aggravates the situation is that the extremist always has a good press coverage. Unfortunately, too, some of the articles appearing in so many magazines, supposedly Catholic, remind us of the words of "Hamlet."

"The time is out of joint, O cursed spite  
That ever I was born to set it right."

Saint Paul years ago gave this solemn warning in his second epistle to Timothy:

"There shall be a time when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires they will grow tired of sound doctrine, always itching to hear something fresh, turning a deaf ear to the truth."

Shakespeare was not a theologian, but he certainly "hit the nail on the head" when he wrote in "The Merchant of Venice":

"In religion,  
What damned error but some sober brow  
Will bless it, and approve it with a text,  
Hiding the grossness with fair ornament?"

Mary was chosen by God to be the Mother of the Incarnate Word. It was not an easy burden for a young girl. The Vicar of Jesus Christ, her Son, has called her to be Mother once again, now, of the Mystical Body, the Church. She has learned a lot since the day of the Annunciation, and it is with utmost confidence that we commit His Church to her maternal care as we dedicate 1965 to Mary, "Mother of the Church."

In seeking her maternal care of the Mystical Body of her Son, she herself has given us her Rosary as the most acceptable form of supplication for her aid, at Lourdes and at Fatima, that story was the same.

We, therefore, dedicate this year of 1965 to the "Mother of the Church." May she bring rich blessings to her children throughout the world, but especially to the flock of

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

*James E. Kearney*  
Bishop of Rochester

St. Patrick's Church, Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, formerly was a member of the faculty at St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester.

The warm praise from the three Vatican prelates is believed to be the first time in diocesan history that a statement of a Rochester bishop has been so recognized from the summit of the Catholic Church.

## Prayers, Alms for World's Poor

Bishop Kearney has designated this Sunday, March 28, as World Poverty Sunday—a day of prayer and contributions for the earth's needy millions.

Catholics throughout the United States have been asked by Pope Paul "to continue and to increase" their donations to Catholic Relief Services, the world's largest agency of its kind serving the world's poor.

Now in its 19th year, the agency during the past year provided food, clothing, medicines and other relief supplies to 40,000,000 people in 73 nations.

Aid is given to the needy without regard to race, creed or color.

The aid agency, set up by the U. S. Catholic bishops after World War II, estimates the supplies it sent around the world last year were valued at nearly \$120,000,000.

In a letter read in churches of the Rochester Diocese this past Sunday, Bishop Kearney

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said he was "deeply grateful for the Christ-like generosity that is repeatedly displayed for this work by the people of the Diocese of Rochester."

He said, "By our sacrifices we help bind up the wounds of Christ suffering in His mem-

bers and give evidence that we are more to our neighbors than well-wishers." He asked for a "generous contribution in the collection to be taken on next Sunday." Full text of the Bishop's letter is on page four of this issue of the Courier.

## Pope Raps 'Sluggishness' On New Forms of Worship

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI, in addressing pilgrims at a general audience, appealed again to conservative Catholics to cooperate in the Church's liturgical renewal.

He called upon the faithful "to accept without opposition" reforms in the liturgy approved by the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council.

Pope Paul lauded those Catholics who had greeted the reforms with "joy," but had a word of caution for those who have "negative reactions."

Those who hold out against changes in the Mass and other rites reveal, he said, "scant understanding of the meaning of religious rites . . . (they) are not true in their devotion or sense of the meaning and value of the holy Mass."

Such Catholics, he added, are guilty of a "spiritual sluggishness that does not want to be personally engaged in understanding or carrying out the most sacred of religious acts."

"We are asked — indeed, we are obliged — to associate ourselves with the new forms of worship," he said.

He told Catholics that they must have the "awareness of having, simultaneously, to perform two spiritual acts: one of living and personal participation in the rite, the other of communion with the assembly of the faithful. The first is an act of love of God, the second of love of neighbor."

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FATHER de VAUX  
fragments from antiquity

## Dead Sea Scroll Scholar Coming To Rochester

Dominican Father Roland de Vaux, one of the best known priest-scholars in the world of scholarship, will come to Rochester for a lecture on "The History of Israel and the Revelation of God."

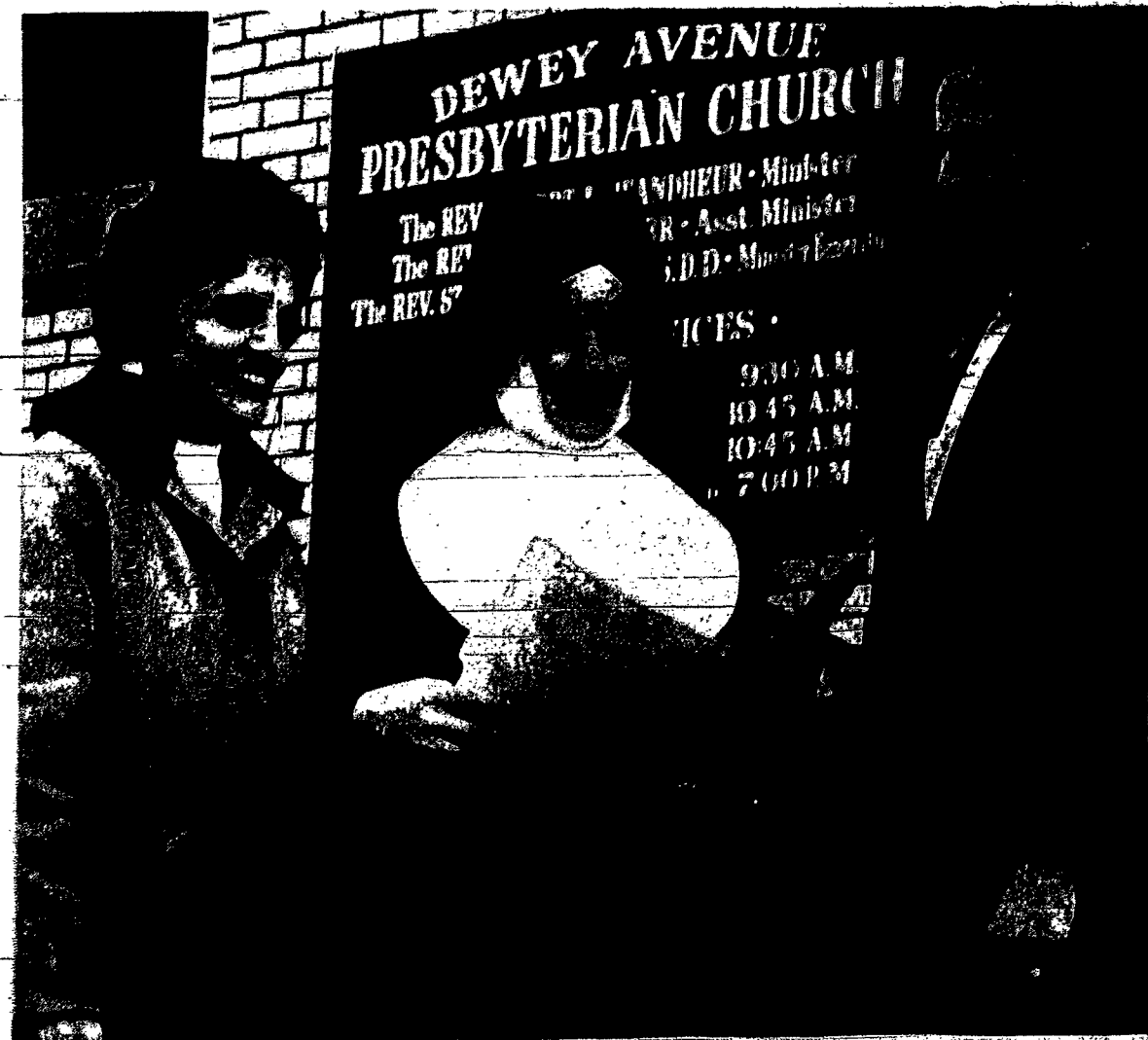
The 61 year old, trimly bearded friar is noted for his painstaking work on the famed Dead Sea Scrolls, manuscripts dating to the time of Christ which were unearthed in desert caves during the past quarter century.

His lecture, open to the public, will be given Wednesday, April 7, at 8:15 p.m. in the Memorial Art Gallery auditorium.

His visit to Rochester is sponsored by Colgate Rochester Divinity School and St. Bernard's Seminary — the first time the two schools have teamed up for a project of mutual interest.

Father de Vaux is the author of fifteen books and scores of articles—all on Scriptural or archeological themes.

The Paris born priest is director of the Ecole Biblique et Archeologique in Jerusalem and this year is a professor at Harvard University's School of Divinity.



## Cathedral Nun at Presbyterian Church

Sister Ruth Agnes, principal at Sacred Heart Cathedral school, launched a neighborhood ecumenical project by speaking to mothers who are members of Dewey Avenue Presbyterian Church. Her three talks explained methods the nuns use to spur children to take a greater interest in their studies and suggested ways parents can aid pre-school youngsters get ready for classes. With her are Mrs. Charles Sawyer and Mrs. Robert Peters who arranged the nun's visit to their church.