

The Bishop's Long Record Of Interest in The Laity

By THOMAS H. O'CONNOR

Spiritual motivation of laymen and laywomen in the Diocese of Rochester is a distinct contribution of Bishop Kearney as spiritual leader during his 28 years here. Now as His Excellency approaches his 81st birthday he can look back on—

Stimulating membership in the Nocturnal Adoration Society particularly in addresses to the men filling Bausch and Lomb Optical Company cafeteria and representing the four sections of the society. This, after talking in his early days to the one society in Powers Hotel. Then watching it grow.

Recalling again his words at one of the breakfasts— "That is why I say that it is such a gratifying thing to realize that the largest gathering of men in this Diocese year after year is one not for social educational, charity or welfare purposes but solely for the glory of God."

Laymen's and laywomen's retreats are one of his principal concerns. He is looking forward to the building of the new men's retreat house on Canandaigua Lake and can recall the development of this movement from St. Bernard's Seminary, to the Retreat House operated by the Redemptorist Fathers in Geneva, and then the growth resulting in the Notre Dame Retreat House on Alexander St. All of this has meant hundreds and hundreds of men in close week end communion with their God.

The Bishop's talks to retreatants has come at Masses in St. Joseph's Church at the beginning of the year. The men were told on one occasion "Just as the three Wise Men gave gifts to the Child you men have suffered hardships and demonstrated your faith and humility, as did the three kings in working for the retreat movement."

In like manner, the Bishop's inspiration has resulted in growth for the closed retreats at the Cenacle Retreat House and Academy of the Sacred Heart for women of the diocese.

Holy Name Society activities are given the Bishop's attention and at rallies, pontifical Masses and other events of the Society. The Bishop gives a message in keeping with the society's aims. In a sermon at a Holy Name Mass in St. Joseph's Church the theme was that Christ and His Mother are inseparably associated wherever the true Christian faith is found. "The attempt of the Reformers," the Bishop said, "to separate Mary from her Divine Son resulted only in the breakdown of morality and the loss of the purity of Christian Faith."

Professional men have felt the influence of Bishop Kearney. He instituted the Red Mass for lawyers asking God's Blessing on members of the bench and bar at the opening of the Courts in the fall.

Typical of his sermons was one in 1959. The Bishop cited the lawyers' need to be men endowed with God's special help to assure justice for all men. He cited Catholic teaching on the "seven gifts of the Holy Spirit" and prayed that these would be given abundantly to them.

The fraternal organizations of knights in the Diocese are never turned down when they ask Bishop Kearney to their affairs. His latest assistance to the Knights of Columbus was dedicating a new home for Rochester Council 178 at 513 Monroe Ave.

In the Fourth Degree or patriotic section of the Knights of Columbus, Bishop Kearney has long been active. For many years he has taken a leading role in the ritual work of that group.

On one occasion during World War II years, Bishop Kearney was able to talk with both the heads of the Knights of St. John and the Knights of Columbus when Supreme Knight Francis P. Matthews of the K. of C. from Omaha and Supreme President Frank H. Biel of the K. of St. J. met at a Communion-breakfast at which the Bishop was the speaker. Also at the same breakfast was Joseph F. Lamb, supreme secretary of the K. of C., long a friend of the Bishop's and of Rochester Council.

With example of the Bishop's concern for the young men in military service in his Diocese was the Pontifical Mass sermon he gave to 16,000 Navy men at Sampson Naval Training Center in 1944. He hailed July 4th, the day of the Mass as the day which "proclaimed forever to a despot-ridden world the divine right not of kings, but of man."

Youth in diocesan activities and in scouting activities, youth in Catholic and secular educational institutions, and youth generally, have not been overlooked by Bishop Kearney. He enjoys visiting the schools, taking part in scout programs and is a strong friend of the Newman Movement in secular schools.

Each year he lends his support to the Catholic Youth Association explaining to workers and donors the need for strong character building organizations.

When the Boy Scouts honored His Excellency in 1958, he said the Scouting program "instills discipline in a boy's life and discipline makes leaders of the future."

At Cornell University in 1960, Bishop Kearney was given a plaque by the Newman students "in recognition of unfailing service to the Newman apostolate as friend, counselor, chaplain and episcopal moderator."

The Bishop has served as national chaplain of the Knights of St. John and state chaplain of the Knights of Columbus. When serving in the latter office he lent encouragement to establishing the First Friday Luncheon Club in Rochester which since 1942 has brought Catholic men and their families to practice of the First Friday devotions.

The Knights of Equity has heard his advice over many years when, on St. Patrick's Day, he is the only main speaker and holds up the faith of Ireland as an example for descendants of that country to follow.

This piece covers the men's side of lay activity but the Bishop has an equal number of events to recall in which he instilled spiritual programs among women's organizations such as the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and others. Recalled as one of the groups he initiated was the Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses now flourishing.

City firemen, policemen and postmen hear his admonitions and one such recollection was to the policemen in 1963. He told them their fidelity to duty in the face of numerous obstacles was "a pattern all citizens should follow."

The list of lay groups benefiting from his example, wisdom and fatherly advice is long. All who have heard him and revere him pray that many more years will be allotted to him to continue in this work. Happy October 28, Bishop!

Priest Aids Poor in Brazil, Red Violence Wanes

New Orleans — (NC) — NBC newsman Wilson Hall told the story here of a young priest— Padre Milo — near Recife, Brazil, who led a successful move to offset efforts of an avowed communist leader.

The communist, Francisco Juliao, whose greatest hero is Cuba's Fidel Castro, formed what he called "peasant leagues," and preached that the only way the downtrodden would get land and economic advances was to get guns and shoot the landowners.

There were some deaths.

Padre Milo formed his own leagues, holding meetings in churches. He proposed non-violent action, through such things as strikes.

The young priest — whose efforts were approved by his bishop — also met with landowners, would have to give up something or lose everything in the long run.



Lay people of all faiths respect Bishop Kearney as an outstanding citizen and warm friend — as shown here where they greet him at annual "Red Mass" at opening of autumn court sessions.

Stadium Ban Draws Protest

Rochester — (NC) — The head of Citizens for Educational Freedom has lambasted a state official's decision that public schools cannot rent football stadiums to teams from church-related schools.

Paul W. Brayer, president of the state CEF federation, called the ruling by Deputy State Commissioner of Education Edward B. Nyquist a "frightening shock."

He said that "without reason or excuse, it exposes every phase of educational cooperation to the threat of discrimination because of religion."

Nyquist held that state laws bars use of public school athletic facilities by church-related schools because proceeds go

to "a society, association or organization of a religious sect or denomination."

Brayer said that "anyone familiar with the operation of a high school athletic program is aware that admissions can never meet the expenses of the programs."

"How then," he asked, "can they contribute to support operational costs of the classroom program when they cannot sustain the athletic teams? This makes the excuse that 'profits' of a high school football game contribute to instruction in religion lame and ridiculous," he said.

Nyquist's ruling was requested by the Niagara Falls school district. It had rented for \$125

a night the stadium of La Salle High School, a public school, to Bishop Duffy High School for football games. However, after two years of this arrangement, the district suddenly held it illegal and Nyquist's opinion was sought.

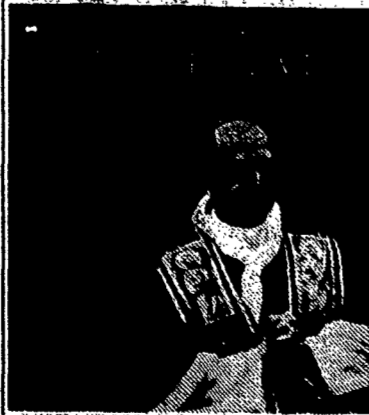


Boys Town Priest from Italy

Monsignor John Patrick Carroll-Abbing visited one of the older citizens of his Boys Town of Italy — Monsignor Albert Simonetti at Annunciation Church, Rochester. Monsignor Carroll-Abbing is founder of nine Boys Towns since World War II and has aided 19,000 youngsters find a home, health and an education in the course of that 20 year period. Monsignor Simonetti is an honorary citizen and an early benefactor of the project. The Irish-born prelate was in Rochester for the Italian Ball held Saturday evening.

Cancer Victims Hong Kong — (NC) — The Chinese Sisters of the Precious Blood — a Hong Kong diocesan congregation—have agreed to manage an Anti-Cancer Home sponsored by Hong Kong's Anti-Cancer Society, a voluntary organization.

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Anne E. Kane Funeral Held

Funeral Mass for Miss Anne E. Kane was offered by Monsignor John M. Duffy in St. Augustine's Church, Thursday, Oct. 14. Miss Kane, formerly of 96 Dellwood Circle died Oct. 11, 1965.

She was a member of St. Augustine's Rosary Society.

Surviving are two sons, Mrs. Patrick Kane and Mrs. Mary Kane and several cousins of Rochester and Niagara Falls.

Burial in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements by Alvah Halloran and Son.

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Mrs. Scalma Funeral Rite
Scalma Falls — Funeral was offered for Mrs. Scalma at St. Patrick's here Tuesday, Oct. 19. She was a member of S.M.S. Auxiliary.
Surviving are four children: Mrs. Nicolas Gentile, Mrs. Bellino, Mrs. G. and Mrs. Michael F. son, Joseph Scalma grandchildren, all Falls.

Burial in St. Cemetery arranged by Doran Funeral Home

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