



**Prayer . . .** Bishop Casey's prayers focus on the altar where he begins Mass daily at 6:30 a.m. and where he concludes his day close to midnight with a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

Paterson News Photo

# The New Bishop of Paterson

By ANNE BUCKLEY

Sacred Heart Cathedral parish is the biggest in the Rochester Diocese — in more ways than its 8,000 members. It has probably the biggest pastor, too — and not just because he stands six feet two without his crutch.

He is Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, 60, Auxiliary of the diocese, named Bishop-designate of Paterson on Wednesday, March 9.

At the Cathedral for 13 years, Bishop Casey has been a pastor who greets his people after Mass even in a downpour and personally straightens out their Sunday traffic jams; who celebrates their daily 6:35 a.m. Mass, regularly hears their confessions, blesses their babies, visits their sick, and proudly reports their annual 258,000 Communion, 7,677 Legion of Mary home visits and 4,085 Nocturnal Adoration holy hours.

Sacred Heart is big even on the grammar school basketball courts where its boys have a winning streak going past the 100-game mark. And in the diocesan seminary, where one-tenth of the students are boys from Cathedral.

**THE DAY AFTER** it was announced he was to be Bishop of Paterson the trim and towering man with the silver hair and hearty, eye-crinkling smile was saying it was too bad he

*Anne Mae Buckley is feature editor of the Advocate, newspaper of the Newark archdiocese and Paterson diocese. She came to Rochester to interview Bishop Casey the day after Pope Paul named him Bishop of Paterson. This article is reprinted from the Advocate.*

wouldn't be around his Rochester Cathedral parish this spring to see "five of our girls receive the nurse's habit."

But he was also anticipating with the excitement of a man turned to Vatican Council II the prospect of becoming the Ord-

inary of a diocese in this time of Catholic renewal.

"A Bishop's job now is a pretty complicated thing," he said, "and it is becoming more complicated each year. He has to keep his finger on the pulse . . ." As he spoke, his whole

demeanor suggested a man who relishes nothing so much as complicated tasks.

Despite his delighted involvement with parish life ("I like contacts with people . . .") he has been, for most of his 36 years as a priest, occupied

with the administration of the diocese — as secretary to three Bishops, as vice chancellor, vicar general, and Auxiliary to Bishop James E. Kearney, now 82. For 13 years in the episcopacy, Bishop Casey has not been the kind of Auxiliary who merely fills in on Confirmations.

**THE WAY** he does his job is a fascinating blend of high-powered efficiency and personal warmth.

"He is a man who wants things done right, who keeps to a time schedule and expects others to do the same," said one priest-associate. "He is also a man who wants to avoid hurting anybody."

The latter quality is apparent in his dealings with priests of the diocese all 371 of whom he knows by name. Bishop Casey has been diocesan "personnel director" — and last June each priest who was reassigned had a personal visit with him to talk over the change, or in the case of special assignments, to accept or decline.

He also has a wide reputation as a man of personal convictions who will, nevertheless, listen to — even seek out — the opinions of others, priests and lay people, and often change his position after hearing the other side. It is, in fact, the new significance of the laity that seems to intrigue him most about Vatican II.

"Laymen will be playing an increasingly important role," he said. "They will have more to do in the Church, and there will be more dialogue between clergy and laity."

**HIS PRACTICAL** approach to pastoral problems is demonstrated by the diocesan moratorium on new construction (Continued on Page 4A)



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## . . . Work

Phone calls, a desk piled high with correspondence, sermon notes and diocesan plans fill a sizable part of Bishop Casey's working day. He will be installed as Bishop of Paterson on May 12th.

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