

Greetings

And a Sincere and Prayerful

Hope

for a long, spiritual career

as

Our Bishop

ST. PATRICK'S

Corning, New York



Dictating replies for a mountain of correspondence.

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The Sheen story began 71 years ago in El Paso, Illinois. He was born in a room above his father's hardware store and an uncle once said, "You could hear him crying three blocks away." It was a voice that was destined to be heard eventually around the world.

While he was still a child, the Sheen family moved to Peoria, 30 miles away where the father took up farming in between storekeeping.

Although baptized Peter John and called P.J., he likes to be called Fulton—his mother's maiden name—and that's the one that prevailed. The Sheen home routine included the Rosary each evening and young Fulton, like millions of other Catholic lads, became an altar boy at St. Mary's Cathedral, Peoria.

Asked when he had the first inkling he'd like to become a priest, he said, "I can't remember a time that I ever didn't want to."

But that he would become so famous an orator too—that was not always so clear, as indicated in a story he delights in repeating . . .

At St. Viator College in Bourbonnais, Illinois, he made the debating team in his first year there. But the night before the school was to debate its far more powerful rival, Notre Dame, the debating coach called freshman Sheen aside and told him bluntly, "Sheen you're absolutely the worst speaker I ever heard!"

He asked him if he knew his speech by heart. Yes, Sheen said. So he was stood in a corner and told to say it. He did. Repeat it! He did. Repeat it again! He did, over and over, for an hour. What's wrong with it? Other students would probably have stalked out in shame or anger. Sheen thought then answered, "I'm not natural. I'm not speaking it naturally." The coach sighed. Now do it again. And, as Bishop Sheen noted, "I haven't kept quiet since."

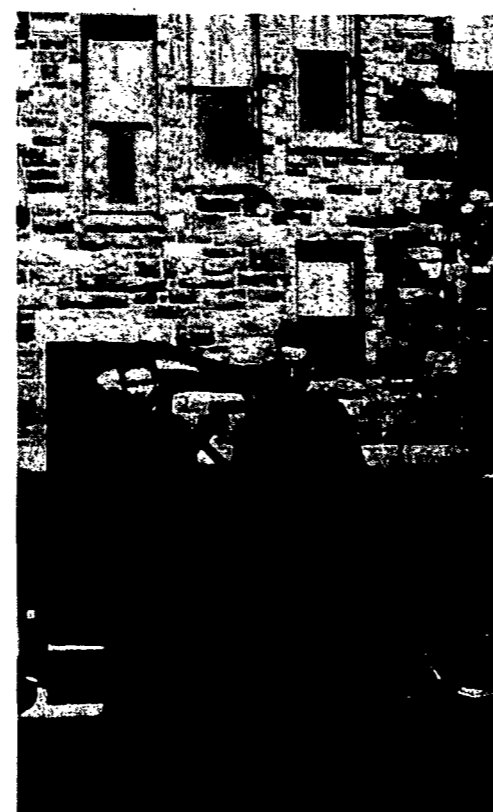
And, by the way, St. Viator's beat Notre Dame.

After studies at St. Paul's Seminary, he was ordained in 1919 and went on to graduate studies at the Catholic University in Washington and then over to Europe to study at the University of Louvain, Belgium. At Louvain he became the first

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A portrait of many years ago.



In the days of the Model T.

THE PRAYERS of the entire CONGREGATION

of

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Rochester, N. Y.

express the joy

that is in

OUR HEARTS



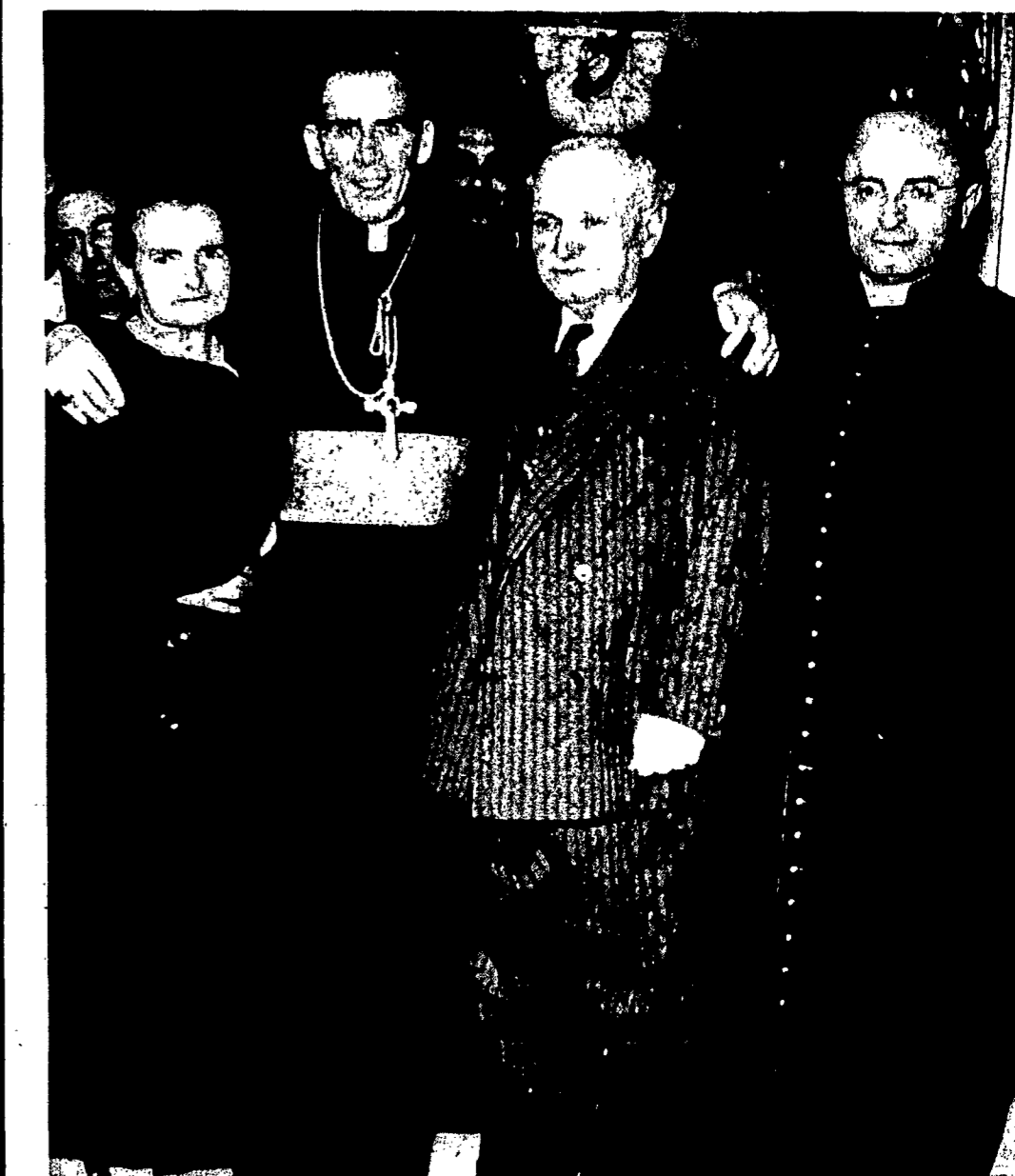
Pope John and a friend.

Greetings

from

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH

Geneva, N. Y.



Friends everywhere — Bishop Sheen with the pastor of an Italian village and the priest's parents.

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