



*May God's faithfulness and His kindness  
be with you, and through His name may your horn be exalted.*

OFFERTORY — CONFESSOR BISHOP



CATHERINE McAULEY COLLEGE — Rochester, New York

NOTRE DAME HIGH — Elmira, New York

OUR LADY OF MERCY HIGH SCHOOL — Rochester, N.Y.

ST. JAMES MERCY HOSPITAL — Hornell, New York



THE SISTERS OF MERCY

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

## The Vatican's Community Chest for the Missions

By MONSIGNOR JOHN F. DUFFY

"A beggar for the Holy Father's Missions", he would call himself!

"A beggar for two-thirds of the people of the world who go to bed hungry every night", is another title he claims for himself.

"America's representative on the Board of Directors for the Community Chest for the Missions", is still another description of the new Bishop of Rochester. In November at the first meeting of the newly constituted National Conference of Catholic Bishops, held in Washington, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen was elected Chairman of the Committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Each year for sixteen years Rochester's new Bishop traveled to Rome to attend the annual meeting of the Supreme Council of the Propagation of the Faith. Held in May every year, this meeting, under the direction of the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, brought together the National Directors from more than forty countries of the world. In earlier years, Bishop Sheen, America's representative, saw the late Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi, one-time Apostolic-Delegate to the United States, presiding at the meetings. More recently, Cardinal Agagianian, as the supreme head of all mission work in the Church, was the chairman of these vital missionary meetings.

Founded at Lyons, France, by Pauline Jaricot, in the year 1822, and made a Pontifical Society on May 3, 1922, by Pope Pius XI, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith is now best known in the United States through the efforts of Bishop Sheen, who has served as National Director since 1950.

By his trips to the missions in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, by his participation in the Roman meetings with Cardinal Aga-

gianian, and by his visits with missionary bishops during the Second Vatican Council, the new Bishop of Rochester has had the opportunity to see first-hand the growing missionary needs throughout the world. The urgent appeals of nearly eight hundred bishops dependent upon the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith are something very real to the American National Director.

To assist Cardinal Agagianian and the other mission leaders in Rome as they seek to fill the needs of the missions—this has been the undivided goal of Bishop Sheen. With all his strength and effort Rochester's new Bishop used every means at his disposal — books, syndicated newspaper articles, television — to popularize and to publicize the Holy Father's missions and their needs.

Nearly a half a century of Papal statements and writing reinforce Bishop Sheen's feeling for the work and goals of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Chief among the documents quoted by the former National Director has been the letter of Pope Pius XI, issued on May 3, 1922, the one hundredth birthday of Pauline Jaricot's Society, and the three hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith as a special department in the Vatican.

"The Pope of the Missions," as Pope Pius XI has been described in history, in his letter of 1922 paid a very special tribute to the large number of Catholics who give "voluntarily, and in many countries, generously" to the missionary orders for their particular missions. But the Holy Father then followed with the very telling point that "this method of collecting neither meets the requirements of each mission, nor lends itself to a just and stable division of alms among all of them."

The May 3, 1922 letter of Pius XI continued in this very definitive manner: "besides these private collections for certain missions, we wish that all the Catholic missions be assisted by contributions from the Church as a whole and that all the alms, no matter how small, be gathered into one fund to be distributed, in proportion to the



Bishop Sheen, at right, sits in on meeting of national directors of Society for Propagation of the Faith at Rome.

needs, by a committee appointed by us." It was the express wish of the Holy Father in 1922 that "the Society for the Propagation of the Faith centralize the alms of the faithful intended for the missions."

And to reinforce his mission philosophy, Bishop Sheen has frequently recalled the words of our Lord to be found in Saint Matthew's Gospel: "When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be given in secret; and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you." Contributions made to the "Holy Father's Community Chest for the Missions" are a perfect illustration of this Gospel maxim.

Other twentieth century Pontiffs, both before and after Pope Pius XI, have stressed the importance of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Pope Benedict XV, who was Pope during World War I, wrote: "We wish Catholics liberally to assist those holy works organized for the support of the Missions. Of these comes first the Society for the Propagation of the Faith."

More recently, Pope John XXIII expressed the "trust, therefore, that all bishops will continue most zealously to further the development of the Pontifical Mission Aid Societies" by giving every support to the priests who are in charge of these Societies as national and diocesan directors."

That Rochester's new Bishop will continue to be a name known world-wide for his missionary endeavors is beyond doubt. His recent letters and statements make this abundantly clear.

In a final letter of appeal to his millions of friends and supporters throughout the country, Bishop Sheen wrote: "How could I leave the Missions? Though the Lord limited His earthly life to what might be called the 'Diocese' of Palestine, He, nevertheless, stretched out His arms to embrace all humanity within His grasp." The outgoing National Director then invited his friends to join with him "in an act of thanksgiving to the Holy Father for having added the pastoral care of the Diocese of Rochester to the missionary burden of serving the poor of the world, which is the task of every bishop."

## So Much to Remember

By SISTER HELEN DANIEL, S.S.J.



... a time to be informal too.

Excitement ran high at Nazareth College. News had come that Archbishop-Bishop Mooney whom we had come to admire and respect as one of the truly great Bishops of our time was to leave Rochester for Detroit. Our new Bishop was to be Most Reverend James E. Kearney. Press releases referred to him as a great Churchman, devoted to Catholic education. Bishop Kearney had been in Utah, an area where Catholics were in the minority. He had developed a missionary sense and had traveled widely, seeking financial support for the churches and schools of his Diocese. All this he brought to Rochester on that memorable day of his arrival in Rochester.

In an assembly at the College on August Street, on November 30, 1937, the then Miss Marion Odenbach read an address of welcome to the newly arrived Bishop in which she reminded him of the eagerness with which he had been awaited in Rochester, of the excellent reputation that had preceded him, and of the hope of all Nazareth College students that he would share

in all their interests and undertakings. In turn, they promised loyalty, affection and cooperation. Miss Odenbach forecast more wisely than she knew. The thirty years that followed have been written deep in the hearts of the well over three thousand students at Nazareth who have had the great good fortune to have come under the dynamic influence of Bishop Kearney's genial, friendly personality extending even to the present time.

Each year since 1938 Bishop Kearney has opened the academic sessions at Nazareth College with the Mass of the Holy Spirit, has welcomed the new students—encouraging them and reminding them, "You will get out of college only what you put into it." Fortified and believing, they left the Chapel with his blessing. The Bishop has been part of all Commencement week activities, speaking words of counsel and exhortation, emphasizing the importance of being faithful to the ideals of Nazareth. The glory of each Commencement Day has been heightened by his presence and made unforgettable by the strong, stirring, loving last message to the graduates. At these Commencements he has always presided

Sister Helen Daniel is president of Nazareth College, Rochester.

Continued on Page 5B