

# NOW ON SALE!

## 100 Years of Catholicism

By TOM GOULD

### Books

A decree from the Vatican in Rome was issued in March, 1968 creating the Roman-Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

That was just more than 100 years ago. Since then the nation's population has more than quadrupled. The West has been opened and flourished. At least five wars have spilled the blood of America's youth. The industrial revolution has changed a land of farms into a gigantic industrial empire. And Rochester and its Catholic diocese also have changed.

All that is the scope of a book, "The Diocese of Rochester, 1868-1968," by the Rev. Robert F. McNamara, F.P.L., to be published Wednesday by The Christopher Press of Rochester. It will contain 688 pages and 150 illustrations. Its price: \$12.

**FATHER McNAMARA**, professor of church history at St. Bernard's Seminary, is a graduate of the American College in Rome. Many of his works have been published,

including, in 1956, an 858-page volume about his alma mater, "The American College in Rome."

Churchmen and historians, naturally, will take to this new book. But its interest is much wider.

The author's delicate touch, his appreciation of the personal as against the factual, his untiring study and investigation make his book engaging even to non-Catholic readers.

The book is no mere recitation of facts and figures. Statistics are there, as you would expect from a competent historian. But there is much more—a relationship of facts and figures to events and to the people who made events.

**THE BOOK ENCOMPASSES** a social, political and religious history of the diocese. Of special interest is the account of the Know Nothing

and Masonic-inspired baiting of Catholics in the 1850s while Rochester still was part of the Buffalo diocese.

After the Civil War came temperance problems, belligerent rivalries between nationality groups, and the importation of indentured workers into Western New York. All receive careful attention in the book.

But such problems seem to pale before today's crises brought on by refugees from Communist-dominated nations, the influx of Puerto Ricans and the perplexing outlook for Negro Americans.

With candor and insight, the author pinpoints the mistakes along the line, the small and large triumphs, the many disappointments.

But since Father McNamara is an historian, not a sociologist, he proposes no remedies or cure-alls for current community problems.

Reprint from THE ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE—Sunday, April 28, 1968

## New Book Covers Diocese

**THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER 1868-1968**

By Rev. Robert F. McNamara, 688 Pages, Christopher Press, \$12.00

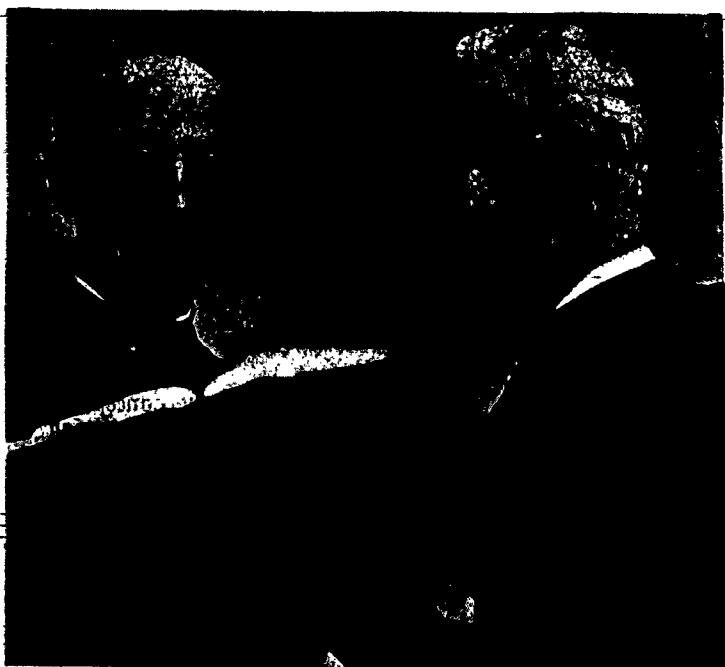
By MSGR. PATRICK J. FLYNN

One hundred years ago (March 3, 1868), Pope Pius IX established the upstate New York Diocese of Rochester "in America" and named Bernard J. McQuaid the first Bishop of the New See.

At its inception the Rochester Diocese embraced the eight counties of Monroe, Livingston, Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, Cayuga, Yates and Tompkins. It was some years, 1896 in fact, before Rome, in response to Bishop McQuaid's insistent demand, added to Rochester the four Southern Tier Counties of Tioga, Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben. All 12 counties of the present Diocese of Rochester were originally part of the Diocese of Buffalo.

Father Robert McNamara whose long awaited history of the 100-year-old Rochester Diocese was published this week, is a veteran professor of Church History at St. Bernard's Seminary. His newest work establishes him as an expert on centennial histories.

Along with numerous historical papers, he has already written such full length works as the "Century of Grace," (1948) which is the story of his native parish of St. Mary's, Corning, N.Y.; the centennial history (1855-1955) of "The American College in Rome," of which he is an alumnus.



Proud author, Father Robert F. McNamara, presents first copy of his just-published "The Diocese of Rochester: 1868-1968" to Bishop Sheen. The volume was published this week. The author is professor of church history at St. Bernard's Seminary.

### Long-needed Scholarship

It was 10 years ago that Bishop Kearney commissioned Father McNamara to prepare a history of the Rochester Diocese for this centennial year. It was a story that needed to be written. The last serious effort to chronicle our diocesan story was Dr. Frederick J. Zwiertein's three volume work, "The Life and Letters of Bishop McQuaid." This was published in 1925

and concluded with Bishop McQuaid's death in 1908.

The task that confronted Father McNamara 10 years ago seemed almost impossible. In his famous history of World War II, Winston Churchill required six large volumes to record the events of only eight years. Father McNamara was under instruction to report the 100-year-old story of Catholic life in the Rochester Diocese in a single volume.

Reprint from THE COURIER-JOURNAL—May 4, 1968



Another monumental work by Father Robert

F. McNamara, author of two previous books of historical significance, "A Century of Grace" and "The American College in Rome."

\$12

688 PAGES...

THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER recounts the story of one particular diocese. But as the Preface points out, the story of these twelve counties is a cross-section of the history of American Catholicism in general. Scarcely a movement or development in the American Church is not reflected here: Jesuit missions to the Iroquois (1675-1710), trusteeship, Know-Nothingism, church-state conflicts, the Civil War and the two World Wars, the evolution of organized charities, the wall of the inner city—all these are brought into detailed focus. Any reader, therefore, who is interested in a closeup of American Catholic history, will find it in this fluent narrative of one of America's middle-sized but distinguished elder dioceses.

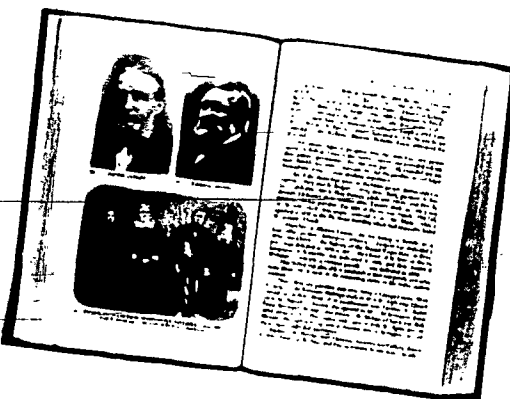
10 years to write:

In 1958, the fifth Bishop of Rochester, Most Rev. James E. Kearney, commissioned Father McNamara to prepare this history in time for the diocesan centennial in 1968. The study is based on archival material of the Dioceses of Rochester, Buffalo, Albany, Syracuse, Ogdensburg, the Archdioceses of Baltimore, New York, and Philadelphia; of the Sacred Congregation de Propaganda Fide in Rome; of the several religious orders represented in the Diocese of Rochester; of the diocesan parishes and institutions; and of the diocesan and secular press. Many personal interviews have also gone into its making. It reinterprets some events of the past; it presents for the first time a chronicle of diocesan events of the mid 20th Century up to June 1967.

Foreword Written by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen  
SIXTH BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

## PHOTOGRAPHS:

A rich collection of photos: the bishops and leading churchmen, nuns and laymen of bygone years; outstanding buildings and institutions, many now destroyed; rare portraits of pioneers from the early 1800's; pictures that summarize an era: Bishop McQuaid waiting for the trolley; a Dutch-town brewer and his family (1862); an Italian religious procession (1917); diocesan scenes from World War I and World War II. These and many others comprise a rich album of the twelve diocesan counties during the past 150 years.



### The Author...

Father Robert F. McNamara is a native and a priest of the Diocese of Rochester. Since 1938 he has been professor of Church History at St. Bernard's, the Rochester diocesan theological seminary. Most important among his writings on church and local history are his two earlier books, "A Century of Grace" (1948) was a "life-sized" centennial history of his home parish, St. Mary's, Corning, New York. "The American College in Rome, (1855-1955)" (Roch-

ester, 1956) was a definitive account of the famous North American College in Rome, Italy, of which Father McNamara is an alumnus. He has been working ten years on "The Diocese of Rochester," which Bishop James E. Kearney of Rochester asked him to undertake in 1958. He is also active in the field of liturgical arts and architecture.

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