

'The Next 100 Years' Challenges Our Imagination

The Shape of the Future Is Molded by Our Actions in the Present

By FATHER RICHARD TORMEY, Editor, Courier-Journal

In the foreword to Father Robert F. McNamara's "The Diocese of Rochester: 1868-1968," Bishop Fulton J. Sheen wrote that although history shows man how much he owes to the past, his future lies, to some extent, in the present.

For many months the Rochester Diocese has been commemorating the 1868 establishment of its geographical cell in the world body of the Church.

Looking backward we have seen our diocese as both a rock and a river: rooted well and dynamically flowing generation to generation with ever-renewing luster, efficacy and value.

We have recalled that its first Bishop arrived that July to become the shepherd of nearly 54,000 Catholics scattered over eight counties of what had been the eastern section of the Diocese of Buffalo. They worshipped in 35 parish churches and 29 mission chapels. The

personnel of the diocese numbered only 39 priests, plus members of three male orders and five communities of nuns.

Scholars could proudly exult over the statistical record of diocesan growth in the last century: there is a Catholic population of 419,198; parishes and missions total 193; 125 schools from elementary through colleges and seminaries enroll more than 57,000 students; nearly 600 priests and Sisters from 20 communities of women serve the laity.

But time will not let this Diocese stand still.

The Courier-Journal presents this Centennial Magazine with the conviction that a century of diocesan history has meaning only if it gives hopeful inspiration about the future. We have chosen "The Next 100 Years" as a theme for this supplement believing that the Diocese must look forward into the next gen-



Our four Bishops preside at the Centennial Mass of Thanksgiving in the Eastman Theatre, Oct. 13. From left Bishop John E. McCafferty, Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Bishop James E. Kearney and Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

eration's lives rather than revel in a biographical history-narrative of our ancestors.

Only a few of our contribu-

tors have redressed the past: some biography, such as the story of how our Bishops worked, is essential for understanding

where we are today.

Most of the articles in this supplement have been deliberately projected into the future: prophecy and conjecture and hopes and dreams about the next eras of our history. Read about where our liturgy may move to, what the diocesan school system must do to serve the Church better and how the seminary structure may be altered in time.

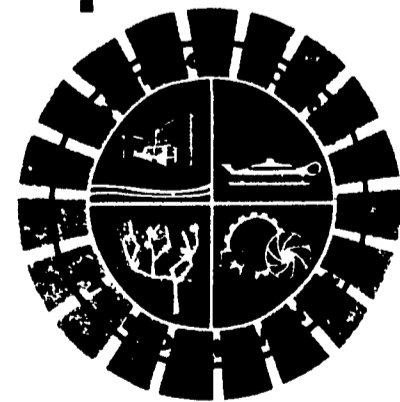
Laymen and women in every section of the diocese have been stalwarts through the century: read how the past challenges the present generation to work for the Church. Inner-city problems were never analyzed in the days of Bishop McQuaid: read here how today they touch the future even of Catholics in suburbia.

Read how theology has entered the minds of the laity and what hopes we may proudly have of the culture in our future diocesan life.

We congratulate

The Diocese of Rochester upon its
One Hundred years of growth and
development and its launching of
another century of progress and
service to the people of Monroe County

KENNETH P. COURTNEY
President, County Legislature



GORDON A. HOWE
County Manager

You had a head start

A 25 year head start... this year is only our 75th.

Despite a 25 year generation gap, we've appreciated our long association and the deposits placed in our care by the Diocese, parishes, lay organizations and their members. These deposits are made at 37 Lincoln Rochester banking offices throughout the Diocese.

Our Church Financing Department, the largest trust department in the area and experienced financial planning are available to help make your second century as successful as your first.

Lincoln Rochester
LINCOLN ROCHESTER TRUST COMPANY MEMBER FDIC