

Theology Affects History of the Church... and Vice Versa

(Continued from Page 18A)
comprehensive question, namely, Does the theology which is being taught in the Church today—at the end of the first century of the life of the Diocese of Rochester—differ in any significant ways from the theology that was taught at the beginning of that century?

Or, to put the question in another way, since the Diocese of Rochester came into being two years before the convening of Vatican Council I and finished its first century three years after the conclusion of Vatican Council II, the question may be asked: How does the theology that has come out of Vatican II differ from the theology that came out of Vatican I? Is the unchanging message of the Gospel being presented in a different way in 1968 from the way it was presented in 1858?

Even this question is scarcely an easy one to handle. So extensive are the theological achievements of the two Vatican Councils that even this question evokes the specter of the full-length book. But, I shall simply attempt to give a brief, synoptic presentation of the differences between the theologies

that emerged from the two Councils, consoling myself for the inadequacies of such a treatment with G. K. Chesterton's comforting words: "A thing that is worth doing is worth doing even badly."

A remark once made by Pope John XXIII suggests a starting point for such a presentation. Speaking of the Second Vatican Council, Pope John stated that it marked the end of the Counter-Reformation. It may be said of Vatican Council I that, in spite of its many accomplishments, it did not produce a theology; rather it continued a theology. And the theology which it continued was the theology of the Counter-Reformation.

The theology that came out of Vatican I, the theology that was taught in Seminaries after Vatican I, had, I should like to suggest, three characteristics: It was clerical. It was polemical. It was intra-mural.

If these terms sound pejorative, I can only say that I do not intend them to be so.

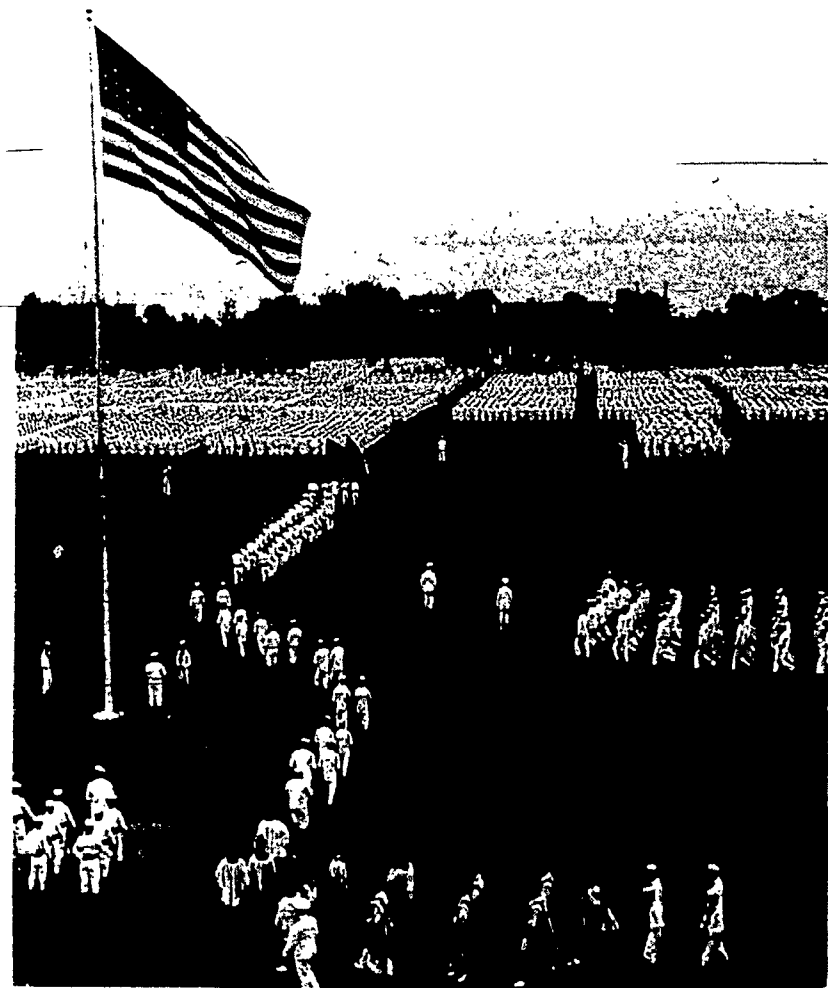
Vatican I faced the needs of its time. To say that there are other needs today that demand a rethinking of our presentation

of theology is in no way to question the value of a theology that attempted to meet the challenge of yesterday. It is simply to admit the historically conditioned nature of theological reflection.

The theology that came out of Vatican I was a clerical theology. It was written by clerics and in a language that for the most part only clerics were expected to understand, namely, the Latin language. It was intended for clerics: it was taught primarily to train preachers, catechists and confessors. For the most part it did not appeal to the laity, and it made little effort to do so. It was an approach that viewed theological reflection as an almost exclusively clerical domain.

If the theology of Vatican I was clerical in its orientation, it was polemical in tone. Most of the priests of the diocese can recall the "thesis" presentation of theological truth that it was our lot to experience at 2260 Lake Avenue.

We began with the statement of a thesis—a particular proposition in theology. This was followed by a not very sympathetic (Continued on Page 96A)



Warlike in the Diocese: Bishop Kearney prepares to offer pontifical Mass at Sampson Naval Training Station in 1944.

Congratulations and
Best Wishes from

Ryan CARTING CO.
SINCE 1910

LOCAL—LONG DISTANCE

MOVING

PACKING CRATING STORAGE
Call Anytime
454-4288
If No Answer Or
Night-Sat-Sunday
Holiday
663-7989
104 FRANKFORT

Over A Half Century

We Salute The Diocese



Two generations of Pritchards have served area families in their search for beauty and enjoyment through music. As representatives of some of the finest piano manufacturers, we have seen eras come and go. Piano rolls were once the rage... we still carry an up to date line for the all-new player pianos. Pianos were big and bulky... the latest models are trim and beautiful... We've seen other changes too, in the growth of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

PRITCHARD
Pianos

- MASON and HAMLIN
- CHICKERING
- FISCHER
- HENRY F. MILLER
- WINTER
- Player Pianos by AEOLIAN AMERICAN

159 NORTH ST. 232-5244
Rochester, N. Y. 14604

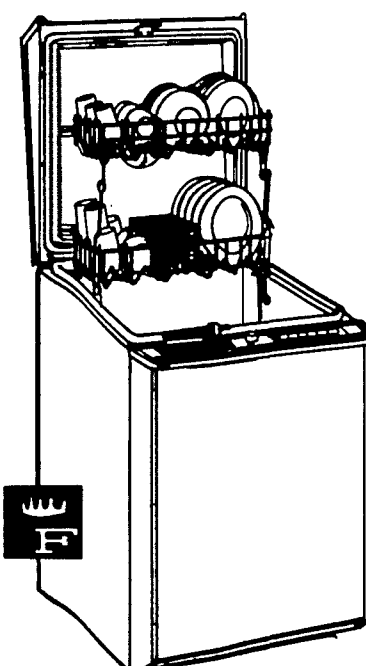


THE FULFILLMENT OF A CENTURY OF SERVICE
BY THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER DESERVES OUR
SINCEREST COMMENDATION.

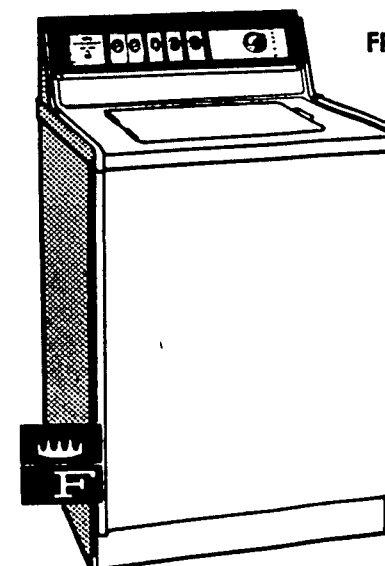
CHARLOTTE APPLIANCE—ONE OF AMERICA'S BIGGEST DEALERS FOR

FRIGIDAIRE APPLIANCES, PRODUCTS OF GENERAL MOTORS

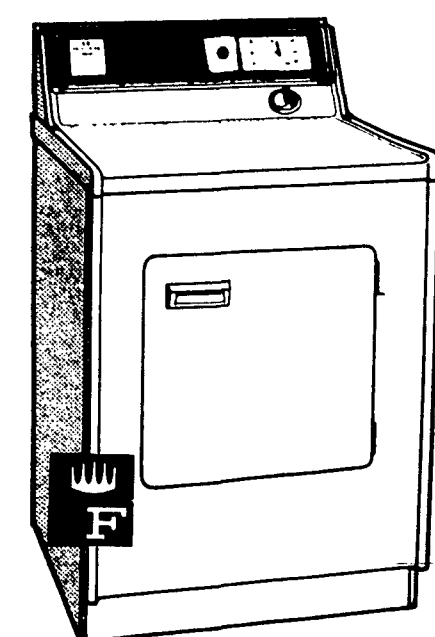
FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHERS



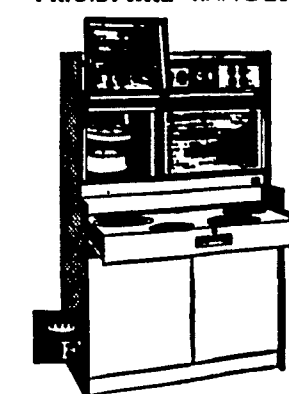
FRIGIDAIRE WASHERS



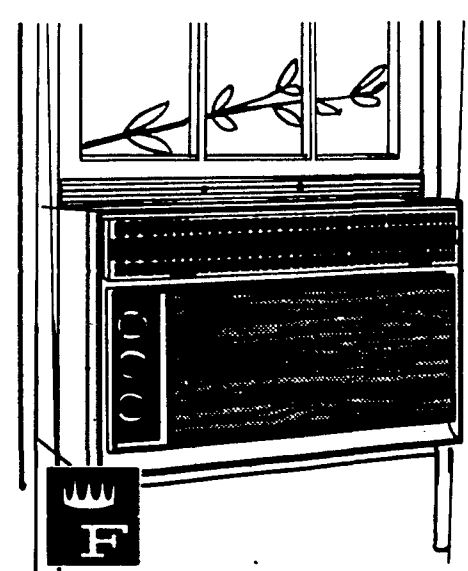
FRIGIDAIRE DRYERS



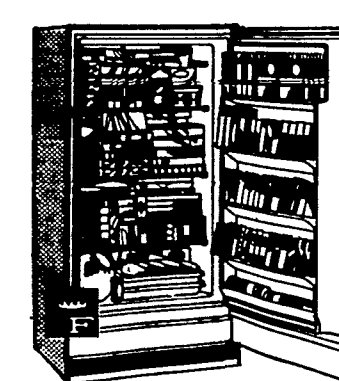
FRIGIDAIRE RANGES



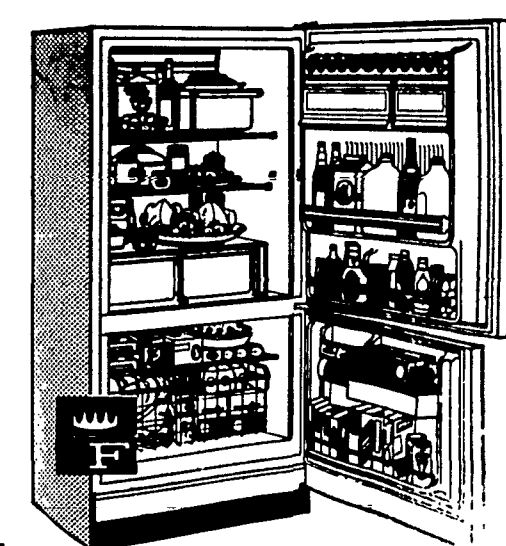
FRIGIDAIRE AIR CONDITIONERS



FRIGIDAIRE FREEZERS



FRIGIDAIRE REFRIGERATORS



"Serving Rochester For Over 30 Years"

CHARLOTTE APPLIANCES

3200 LAKE AVE.

663-5050

OPEN EVES.

FURNITURE & CARPETING
PLENTY OF FREE PARKING