

The Cathedral Is the Heart of Our Diocese

(Continued from Page 24A) neighbor whose several buildings had almost surrounded the Cathedral property, offered the diocese \$300,000 in cash for the entire complex of the church and rectory, plus the adjoining property of the diocesan chancery office and St. Andrew's Seminary.

Negotiations were conducted with full approval from the Vatican and the sale was concluded on Sept. 8.

The last Masses were offered in the Cathedral on Sept. 12, 1937. The pastor, Monsignor Charles F. Shay, locked the doors forever and on the 13th the new owners began to dismantle the venerable 68-year-old church.

The bishop's throne and the marble altar and giant organ were transferred northward a few miles to Sacred Heart parish church which was immediately designated the Pro-Cathedral of the diocese. But it had no Bishop at the time, for Archbishop Edward Mooney had been transferred to Detroit in August and Bishop James E. Kearney did not arrive from

Salt Lake City until November 11, 1937.

Although the parish of Sacred Heart was established in 1910 the present cathedral building was originally erected as its second church in 1926-27 by Monsignor George V. Burns and formally dedicated on June 8, 1927, by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey.

Designed by Charles H. Prindville of Chicago, in soaring Gothic style with a spacious sanctuary and a seating capacity of 1,000, the church deserved its elevation to the dignity of cathedral, which came from the Vatican in June of 1952.

Extensive renovations and improvements were directed by Monsignor Lawrence B. Casey as pastor to make the church more worthy of its new dignity and rank. The first major event in the new cathedral was the consecration of Bishop Kearney on May 5, 1953 by Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York City.

In December, 1966, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen was formally installed there as the sixth Bishop



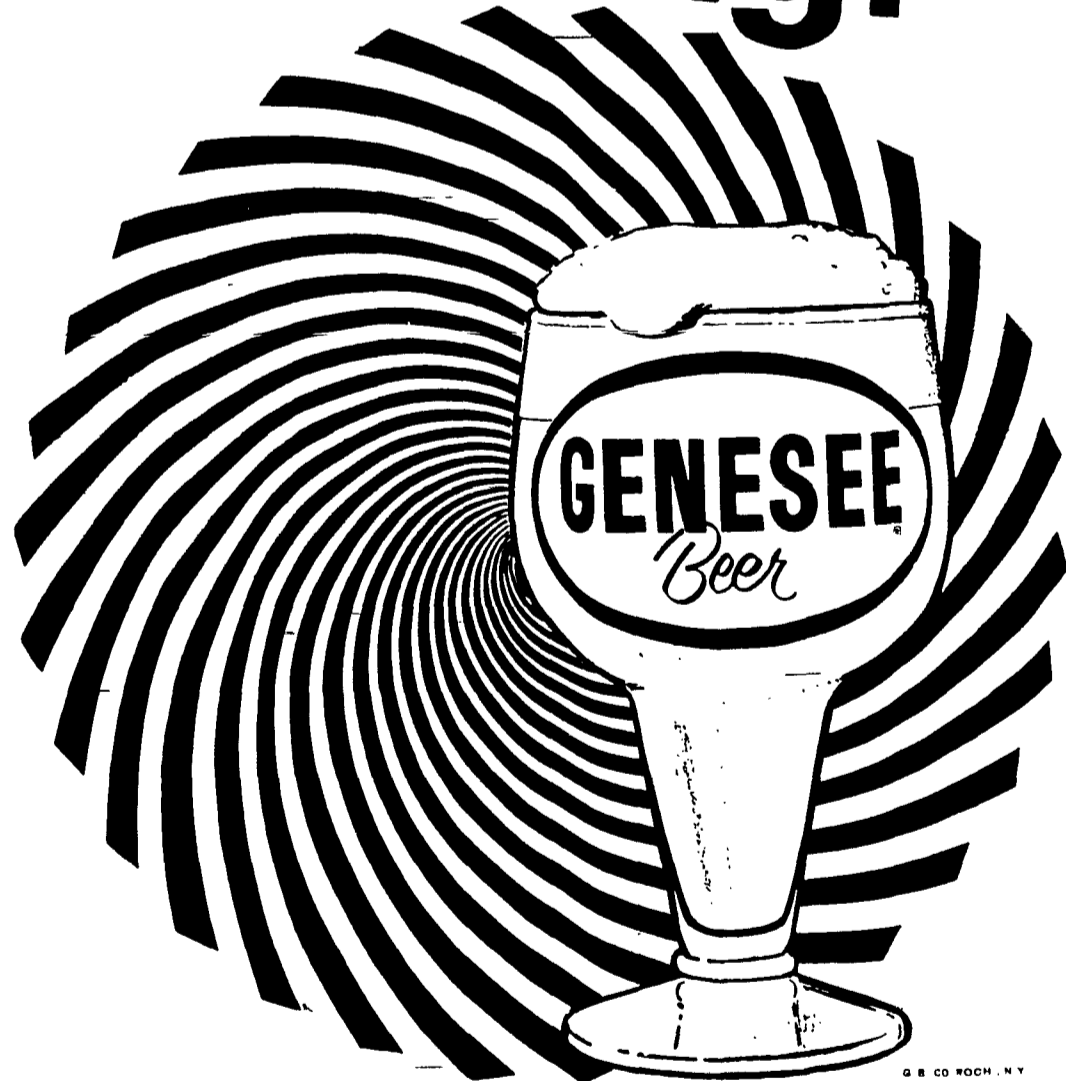
Sacred Heart Cathedral, erected in 1927, succeeded St. Patrick's as the Cathedral of the Diocese in 1952.

of Rochester and on March 14, 1968, two new auxiliaries for Bishop Sheen were consecrated as Bishop there, Dennis W. Hickey and John E. McCafferty.

An interesting link between Sacred Heart Cathedral and the old St. Patrick's was the striking white marble altar. Used for worship in the first cathedral from 1898 through 1937, it had seen four Rochester priests consecrated as bishops in the old cathedral sanctuary and more than 500 priests had been ordained before it. It served for 19 more years in Sacred Heart before being dismantled in 1956 to make way for a new altar in the cathedral renovation program. In March, 1966, the old altar, reconstructed to directives of the liturgical renewal, was again put to use in St. Francis Xavier Church on Bay Street.

Bishop Casey followed by Father John S. Hayes, present rector of the Cathedral, made extensive renovations of the sanctuary in the past four years to provide an altar facing the congregation.

more
exciting!



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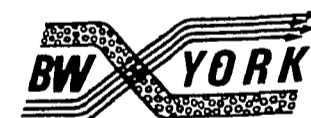
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