

All Systems 'Go' as Bishop Begins 3rd Year in Diocese

By ARTHUR P. FARREN

With no apparent lessening of dynamism or activity, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen this month began a third year as Shepherd of the Diocese of Rochester.

He continues to innovate many suggestions for shifts in emphasis, coupled often with pleas for urgency—strong winds which cause waves of impending change throughout the 12-county Diocese.

As with most leaders continually "on the go," Bishop Sheen has attracted great admirers and encountered sharp critics. For most everyone, however, he has lost little of that personal charisma which has distinguished his illustrious career.

It is readily discernible that the majority of critics quarrel little or not at all with his aims and motivations, about his concern and dedication. Some do not always agree about the pace or methods of some of his proposals.

In any case, most observers admit that the "little Diocese of Rochester, in upper New York State," continues to be a catalyst of post-Vatican Council II renewal, and many of its Bishop's pronouncements still make national headlines.

In a recently-published book, "The Catholic Revolution," author Douglas Roche devotes a full chapter to the Diocese, and states:

"The (Bishop) Sheen impact on Rochester is one of the beacons of the post-conciliar age... it has characteristics that make it a test case for the survival of the institutional Catholic Church."

Perhaps Bishop Sheen's second year in the Diocese might not have seemed as dramatic as his first. There were, however, many instances of meaningful importance.

No doubt the highlight was the Bishop's nomination of two of the most respected pastors for consecration as Auxiliary Bishops—Dennis W. Hickey and John E. McCafferty. The two Auxiliaries not only will lighten the load of administrative responsibility but also may be expected to aid in bringing greater liaison between the Bishop and the religious and laity of the Diocese.

During 1968 Bishop Sheen continued also to evidence in many ways his anxiety for the poor and less fortunate. During his first year this concern was dramatized by his naming of a vicar for urban ministry in Rochester, and by his establishment of "secular missions" for Yates, Seneca, Schuyler, Tompkins, Tioga and Steuben Counties, and the appointment of young priests to direct these "missions" among the poor.

A few months ago Bishop Sheen dedicated two new social service centers: (1) the Missionary Cenacle of the Trinitarian Sisters as a "Center for Unified

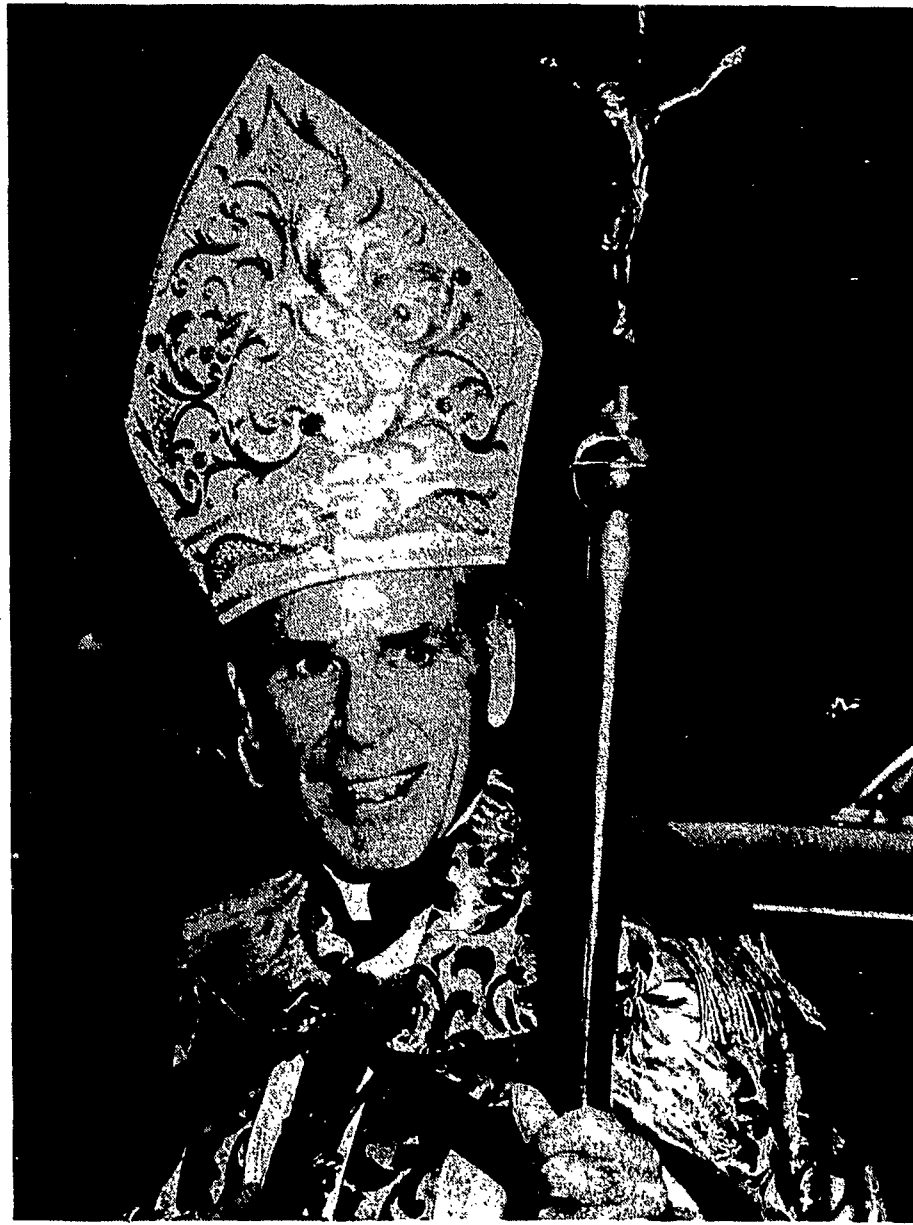
Pastoral Apostolate," to work particularly among the poor in four adjacent Rochester city parishes, and (2) the Spanish Apostolate Center, to work among Spanish-speaking new residents of the Diocese.

Meanwhile the Bishop gave his support to several "neighborhood centers" staffed by Sisters of diocesan Orders.

Last summer the Bishop renewed an appeal for use of church properties to relieve the plight of the poor. It outlined guidelines for minimum costs of construction of new parochial buildings in recognition of "the rights of the poor."

He noted that there are several existing church buildings which could be used as "depots for distribution of food and clothing... dispensaries for the distribution of medicine... out-patient clinics"... others, he said, might be converted "into cinemas during the week, where, with free films and entertaining pictures, there would also be shown religious films, providing better food for the minds of the young than that which they gather on the streets."

Some parochial schools, the Bishop added, could be used as "centers for teaching Christian formation, cooking, sewing, homemaking, budgeting—all of which would give self-respect to persons"... or some might be used by trade unions to train unemployed youths skills to help lift themselves from the slums.



Among many significant trends in Bishop Sheen's multi-faceted activities during the last 12 months was his increased use of the *Catholic Courier Journal* for editorials, dissertations, and messages to priests and people.

An instance was his letter Aug. 16, in which he deplored excessive changes in "underground" and "home" Masses as "a polluted liturgy" and "a perversion of the holy." The Bishop wrote sadly that he knew of priests who violate the diocesan guidelines and who "are involved in serious profanations of the Sacred Mysteries."

In another message immediately after Pope Paul announced his letter on contraception, he stressed loyalty to the Holy Father, praising "his courage to oppose mass demand for the frustration of life," ending his article with the Biblical quote: "To whom shall we go? You have the words of Eternal Life."

In another *Courier Journal* letter the Bishop expressed his feeling that continuation of the Catholic School System will help assure "preservation of the United States."

It was Bishop Sheen's strongest statement on parochial education since his arrival in the Diocese, relieving the concern of many that he was not fully convinced of its value in our times.

The pastoral letter followed a diocesan-wide meeting of pastors at which the Bishop, having heard detailed testimony of the problems of parish finances, welded an agreement that for an indefinite time no schools, or parts of them, would be closed.

Describing Bishop Sheen's activity, one headline writer termed it "An Heritage of Vigor" from his predecessor, Bishop James E. Kearney, now retired but still active in his diocesan vineyard.

Bishop Sheen also declared: "In our larger cities, I would like to see the Church dispossess herself of some of her real property by giving some church property to the poor for housing."

He concluded that "at no time would a church building used for service of the neighborhood preclude it from being the house of God... Here the problem is not the nature of the churches but how to use our multiple buildings."

The Bishop announced in June state approval of the "Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation," and indicated the foundation would welcome funds for this specific purpose.

During the last year Bishop Sheen also pursued his emphasis on ecumenism, giving talks at several inter-faith observances. He named 12 Catholics to an Interfaith Commission, to consult with equal representation from the Protestant and Jewish communities.

A "first" occurred recently at Sacred Heart Cathedral, when Rev. Mr. Marvin Chandler, associate executive director of the Rochester Area Council of Churches, spoke from the pulpit at all Masses.

Last May the Rochester Center for Theological Studies was incorporated with three participants—St. Bernard's Seminary, Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, and Bexley Hall Episcopal Seminary (lately moved to Rochester from Ohio). It is intended to broaden the base of seminarian training in ecumenical cooperation, redirecting it "into the field of action."

Lay participation in diocesan affairs also has highlighted the Bishop's endeavors. During his first year in the Diocese the Bishop established a lay group to assist in diocesan financial administration. During the last year he established a Lay Review Board to assist him in decisions regarding the seminary, and he recently announced plans to establish a Pastoral Lay Council. He also has strongly backed programs for Adult Theology courses and lectured to crowded classes in the series.

During 1968 two new parishes were established to serve burgeoning populations in Chili and Gates—St. Jude the Apostle and St. Christopher—and St. Joseph's, Rush, a mission of Good Shepherd Church, Henrietta, was converted to a parish with a resident pastor.

During 1968, many of the widely-recognized activities of Bishop Sheen were continued: talks in many parts of the Diocese and nation; regular columns for scores of newspapers; television broadcasts. There were books about him, articles by him and about him in leading magazines and newspapers; typical "Bishop Sheen quotes"...

Bishop Sheen, living in the diocesan building a floor below the Pastoral Office, continues his practice of a personal hour of daily prayer and meditation, in addition to daily Mass... a set of tennis once or twice weekly... a practice of personal greetings, when in a crowd, to the elderly, the handicapped, the children...

With a seeming abundance of good health and a vitality bellying his 73 years, he continually bounds up stairways, (oftentimes two steps at a time) and lives on a daily schedule (starts early, works late) which would bring precipitate breakdown to most men 10 years his junior...

1969? Rochester Diocese will continue to be distinguished by having as its Shepherd one of the foremost Bishops of the world. God love him!

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Friday, Dec. 27, 1968

Page 7



Four of Nine in Religious Life

Eight of the nine children of Mrs. Joseph R. Lynch, four of whom are in religious life, gathered Dec. 20 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of ordination of Fathers Joseph and Leo Lynch. Pictured from left are: seated—Sister Mary Ida, SSJ., Nazareth Academy; Mrs. Curtice Amesbury and Mrs. Joseph Lynch, St. Pius X Parish; Sister Mary dePorres, SSJ., Nazareth College; standing—Warren Lynch, Nativity Parish, Brockport; Walter Lynch, St. Augustine's; Father Joseph Lynch, pastor, Holy Spirit Church, Penfield; Father Leo Lynch, chaplain, St. Ann's Home for the Aged; Bernard Lynch, St. Christopher Parish. Absent was another brother, Edward, of Buffalo. (Photo by John S. Fitzpatrick.)

State Hospital Chapel Construction Under Way

Construction of the new St. Jude Chapel to be erected on the grounds of the Rochester State Hospital, South and Elmwood Avenues, was under way this week.

Father James L. Callan, hospital chaplain, said he is hoping for its use in late summer or early autumn of 1969.

Designed to seat 407 persons, the chapel will fulfill the religious needs of the approximately 1,500 Catholic patients at the State institution. Catholics comprise more than 40 per cent of the patients, a figure comparable to the Catholic percentage of the total six-county population served by the hospital.

Constitutional barriers forbid the state from constructing such chapels, but the state does contribute land for their use and will completely maintain and care for them once they are constructed and are debt-free.

There are approximately 16 similar chapels on state institutional grounds, mostly downstate.

Father Callan noted that a campaign for funds conducted in 1968 resulted in cash and pledges amounting to \$250,000. In a continuance of effort, the campaign committee will seek an additional \$100,000 in a drive in January and February to meet increased costs in building, furnishings, fees and other expenses.

Ribson & Roberts, Rochester, are architects for the structure, and the contract went to the lowest bidder, S. P. Vassile & Son Inc., Rochester.

Architecture of the St. Jude Chapel will conform to that proposed for a \$3,000,000 Patients' Rehabilitation Center complex to be constructed along Elmwood Avenue between existing hospital buildings and the big Medical-Surgical Building.

A one-story structure, the chapel will be erected just west of the proposed rehabilitation complex on a small some 400 feet from Elmwood Avenue, and can be reached either from Elmwood or South Avenue.

By its center location among existing and proposed buildings, it will be a convenient focal point for all patients. It will be 98 feet in length and 50 feet wide, and much of the side structure will be wide windows to avoid any feeling of confinement.

Father Callan pointed out that the chapel will replace the present unsatisfactory use of the hospital auditorium for religious worship. The auditorium is used for other religious services, for dancing, movies, basketball, and so forth, he said, and is hardly conducive to meditation.

The new chapel will allow not only for Sunday but for daily Mass, for continued reservation of the Blessed Sacrament, for visits throughout the day by patients and/or their relatives or friends. It also will be the scene for approximately 50 funerals per year.

In a statement this week, Dr. Guy M. Walters, Rochester State Hospital director, declared:

"We are very happy that the Chapel of St. Jude has begun construction. It has been one of our great hopes that this badly needed source of strength and support to the patients be here for them..."

"We are pleased that the public support for the Chapel has not wavered, and are very confident that that support will continue. We con-



FATHER CALLAN

gratulate Father Callan and those who worked so hard with him. We appreciate the generosity of so many people whose gifts will so enrich the lives of our patients now and for many years to come."

Bishop Hickey To Ordain Marist Priest

Rev. Robert E. Baker, SM, a native of Scottsville, will be ordained to the priesthood by Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, in St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Scottsville.

The Marist deacon has been residing at Marist College, Washington, D.C., the major seminary of the Marist Fathers, since 1963, and has been pursuing special studies in education, guidance and counseling. He is attached to the Washington Province of the order.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Baker, 18 Second St., Scottsville, he has a brother, William J., and a sister, Barbara Ann, who is Sister Marlene of the Missionary Helpers of the Sacred Heart, and who is a CCD religious



REV. ROBERT E. BAKER

teacher in Pittsburgh, Pa. Another brother, Thomas J., died in 1966.

Father Baker will offer his first Mass at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, in St. Mary's Church to be followed by a reception in the parish hall.

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