

# Archbishop Sheen Bids Farewell to Diocese

By ARTHUR P. FARREN

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen said goodbye to Rochester last week in a typically dramatic Bishop Sheen fashion.

Smilingly, thankfully, enthusiastically giving a last hand-shake to more than 200 priests, Sisters and laymen who saw him to his plane last Friday evening at Rochester airport.

Seriously, dramatically earlier that day as he addressed more than 900 prelates, priests and laity at the installation luncheon for Bishop Joseph L. Hogan at Cardinal Moon High School—when he asked you, my priests, to forgive me.

Jauntily, yet sadly, when he mounted the platform last Wednesday afternoon at Columbus Civic Center to say goodbye to his "official family"—some nearly 300 priests and laity who work for diocesan agencies and offices.

It was at the latter gathering that the Archbishop noted that every speech should have a prepared ending. Then, in Sheen-like drama, he declared:

"It's one of the hardest things to do to get off stage. I don't know the last line. I do not conclude." He then extended his arms and left the podium.

Archbishop Sheen, whose resignation as Rochester's Bishop was formally accepted by Pope Paul VI on Oct. 15, and who earlier had requested the Pontiff to name the now seventh Bishop of Rochester as his successor, had his last affection from those who joined him at the airport as he embarked to New York City. The crowd marched with him down the long corridor to the exit gate, each seeking to reach him, to shake his hand, to wish him well.

At the luncheon at Mooney High, it had been more traumatic and tear-jerking as the Archbishop pleaded for "forgiveness."

Twelve times he asked "my priests"—of whom he said "I would have been missing one of the foretastes of Heaven if it were not for this God-given privilege to have been one of you"—for forgiveness.

"The greatest joy of my life," he declared, "has been the priesthood of this Diocese. . . this is the hardest thing about leaving Rochester—leaving Rochester . . . believe me, under God . . ."

"No, I would not have had wounds unless I were in your battles—I would not have scars unless I were in the midst of your conflicts—I just ask one thing—one thing—your forgiveness."

"For the things I have said to you priests, and should have left unsaid—forgive me . . . for the things I have done which you felt I should not have done—forgive me . . . for the times I monologued when you felt I should have dialogued—forgive me . . ."

"The Lord forgives me. Forgive me, my fellow priests—I love you."

In his speech the Archbishop likened the modern bishop's role "to be a victim who wins over his executioners." He compared it to the historic roles of Joan of Arc, Don Bosco and St. Thomas More.

He pleaded with "my good people of the Diocese of Rochester—be good to your new Bishop—for God's sake, be good to him! He's a great man—a good man—the Lord has put him here."

Archbishop Sheen said "the world is full of a word I hope we will erase from our dictionaries in the Diocese of Rochester—the word 'down'—down with the Bishop, down with the priests, down with celibacy, down with 'infallibility'—He reeled off issues which acquaintances said have deeply affected him.

"Rally around your Bishop—be constructive and helpful; he's here for healing. Come to see him—lift him up—he needs your prayers. 'Up' is the Christian word—if I be lifted up."

The Archbishop, 74, is returning to New York City to resume a career of broadcasting, lecturing and writing which made him internationally famous before his coming to Rochester in 1966 as Bishop. He has taken a three-room apartment on East 77th Street.

He said he soon will leave for California to preach two retreats for priests. He will continue his weekly syndicated newspaper column, presenting discussions of moral issues. He also will put finishing touches to still another book, portions of which were published during the last year in the Courier-Journal.

"I hope to do other things," he said, "but I'm not sure what they will be. I'll leave it to the Lord to open the doors."

Replying to recent questions, Archbishop Sheen commented that "the world has had enough of relativities—it is demanding absolutes." To another query about his time in Rochester, he said he had had some successes and "many failures." He added that "I was too young for the old persons, and too old for the young ones."

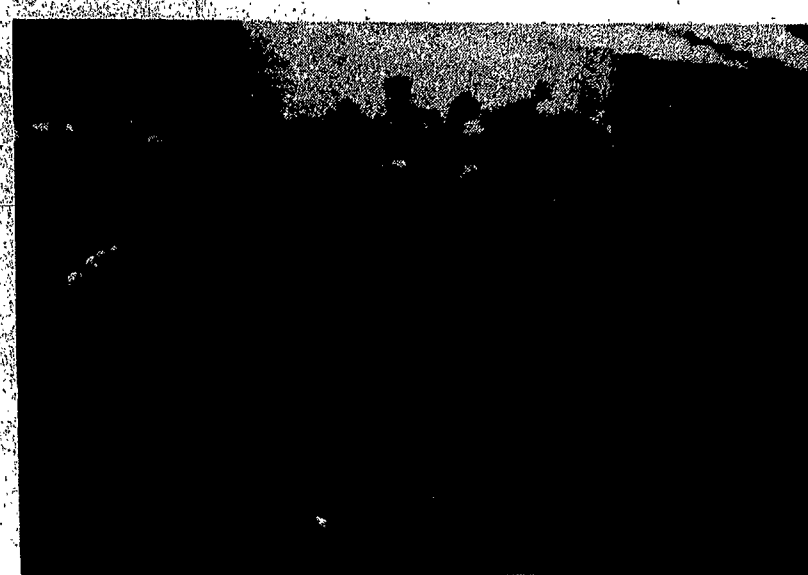
In another recent answer to besieging reporters, he accused the press of promoting "tension and conflict" and of "tearing down instead of building up."

The Archbishop's departure was accompanied by many sincere tributes. Perhaps the most touching came from 85-year-old retired Bishop James E. Kearney, his predecessor, who said at the luncheon:

"Oh yes, my dear friends, let us not deceive ourselves, we have suffered a great loss. . . Rochester's loss is New York's gain. . . Any place that Bishop Sheen has ever been has suffered a serious loss when he was called elsewhere . . ."

"When he came here I said it was a distinct honor to this Diocese that a man whose apostleship for Christ was probably unequaled in the history of any diocese, or any country, should come here . . . let me put it this way: it may be the gift of God that even for a few years we have had this outstanding priest.

"God has directed this great priest in many channels, and I rather feel that God has some great mission for him in going on nationwide broadcasts at a time when the Gospel of Christ is so much needed in the world



Archbishop Sheen is crowded by well-wishers at Rochester airport just prior to his departure for New York City Nov. 28. At right are Msgr. Donald Mulcahy (back to camera) and Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty.

today. And so might I express the sentiments of the Diocese of Rochester in the words of Tennyson: "it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."

Bishop Kearney lightened the mood of the Archbishop's talk by terming it "a beautiful valedictory, very tender and sincere. The only challenging part of it is that even though I still have the power to give absolution, it seems I have to forgive him for so many things that we have to get together and talk about it."

Among many luncheon tributes to Archbishop Sheen was the comment of Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, Apostolic Delegate to the U.S., who described him as "a kind and gentle priest, who worked so hard

here and who gave so much of the abundance of his talent and his mind and heart."

In presenting Archbishop Sheen at the luncheon, Father Richard Tormey, editor of the Courier-Journal, who was toastmaster, declared:

"We have benefited from his three years as our Shepherd . . . Our Bishop Sheen has been a model of devotion to God—affable, jovial, a man of piety, culture and learning, who came to us with a tradition rich and warm."

"Perhaps he has been more imaginative and zealous than we have been. In future years we may look back to these and say what a prophet he was, what a leader he was, what a foundation he gave to us."



New Bishop Hogan goes to front pew during ordination Mass to give Kiss of Peace to his mother. At left in photo is Bishop's eldest sister, Mrs. Gertrude Brooks, and his grand-nephews, James and John Lanphere, all of Lima.



Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (right) receives gifts at farewell reception by "diocesan family" Nov. 28 in Columbus Civic Center. With him is Father Michael C. Hogan, who served as Bishop Sheen's secretary since the latter's coming to Rochester.



Profiles of Archbishop Sheen, Bishop Hogan and Archbishop Raimondi (right) standing at the Cathedral altar show their reverent concentration during the liturgy of the Eucharist which followed the installation.

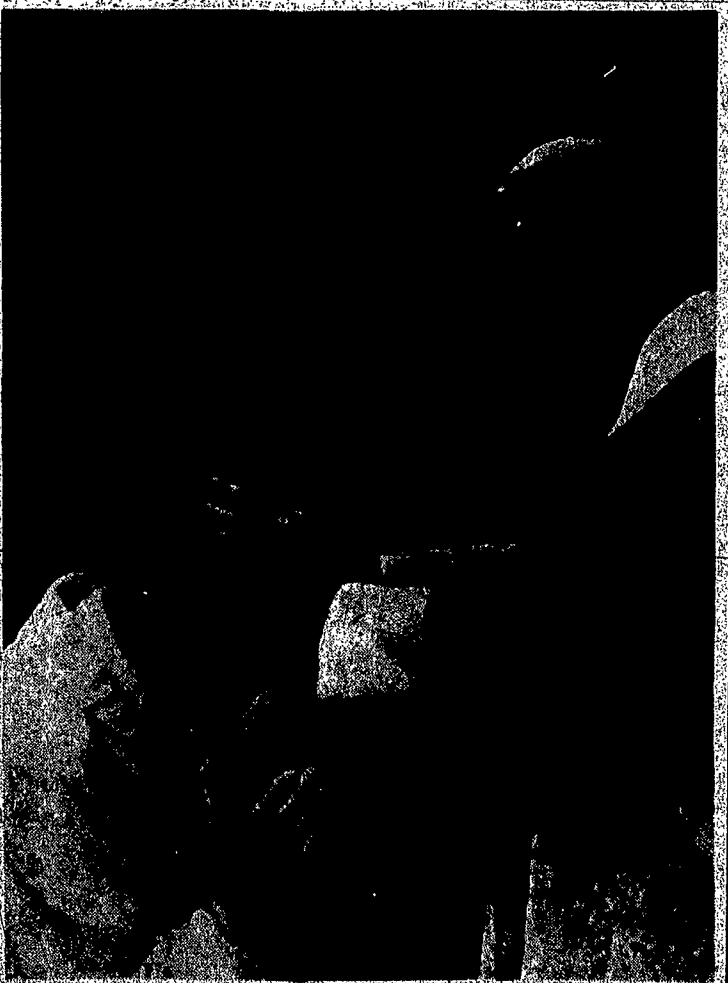
## 21 Prelates At Ordination

Twenty-one prelates, including a cardinal, three archbishops, seven bishops and ten auxiliary bishops were present Nov. 28 for the ordination and installation of Bishop Hogan. They included:

Terence Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop of New York; Archbishops Luigi Raimondi of Washington, Apostolic Delegate to the U.S.; Archbishops Fulton J. Sheen and John J. Maguire, Coadjutor Archbishop of New York.

Bishop James E. Kearney, retired, Rochester, and Bishops Lawrence B. Casey, Paterson; John W. Comber, New York; Walter A. Foery, Syracuse; Francis J. Mugavero, Brooklyn; Edwin E. Broderick, Albany; Stanislaus J. Brzana, Ogdensburg.

Auxiliary Bishops James E. McManus and Philip J. Furlong, New York; David F. Cunningham, Syracuse; Bernard J. McLaughlin and Plus A. Benicosa, Buffalo; Edward J. Maginn, Albany; John F. Hackett, Hartford; Dennis W. Hickey and John E. McCafferty, Rochester, and Auxiliary Bishop George E. Lynch of Raleigh, N.C., newly appointed to take office in January.



Terence Cardinal Cooke, one of 21 co-consecrators, imposes hands on new Bishop Hogan.




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