



Msgr. Randall, right, Bishop Kearney and Robert Ginna at the closing of Bishop Kearney's jubilee fund-raising campaign in 1952.

Msgr. Randall Retires

(Continued from Page 1)

organization in the diocese, and was responsible for United Service Organization centers in Rochester and Geneva.

A Mission Scenerama exhibition which Msgr. Randall directed in the newly-opened Rochester War Memorial building in 1955 drew nearly 150,000 persons.

Among fund raising drives he directed were those for St. John Fisher-Nazareth Colleges and Becket Hall in 1965 which resulted in cash and pledges totaling \$10.5 million.

A campaign for Bishop Kearney and Cardinal Mooney High Schools totaled \$5.9 million in 1960. He also directed campaigns for other diocesan high schools, including McQuaid and St. Agnes of Rochester, Notre Dame of Elmira and Mt. Carmel of Auburn in 1952.

The complicated task of planning for the ordination and installation of several bishops fell to Msgr. Randall because of his skill in intensely-detailed projects.

He directed the entire proceedings for the ordination of Bishop Hogan and Auxiliary Bishops Lawrence B. Casey, Dennis W. Hickey and John E. McCafferty and was responsible for ceremonies of installation for Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

Among his first official actions in December, 1969, Bishop Hogan named Msgr. Randall to the Diocesan Consultors and appointed him chairman of the Diocesan Building Commission.

Msgr. Randall was honored by Pope Pius XI by being named a papal chamberlain with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor in 1947, and a domestic prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor in 1956.

He was born in Newark, N.Y. in 1906. He attended St. Monica's School, Rochester, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries. He was ordained June 6, 1931, in old St. Patrick's Cathedral by Bishop John Francis O'Hern.

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Courier-Journal

No Change in Penance -- Bishops

Washington — The general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops has announced that "no abrupt or radical change" in the Sacrament of Penance is to be expected.

Bishop Joseph Y. Bernardin was commenting on an announcement by the Vatican press office Jan. 14 concerning reports that major changes in the way the Sacrament of Penance is administered are in the offing.

The Vatican announcement said the Holy See is studying "the possibility of applying to special well-determined cases" a 1944 Vatican document authorizing general absolution in certain conditions.

The 1944 document was directed to military chaplains and gave permission for general absolution, without the immedi-

ate and private confession of sins by each individual to a priest, in some emergencies, such as those that might arise in wartime.

The Vatican's Jan. 14 announcement said "many bishops in missionary countries" had asked for a study of the possibility of applying this same permission to other circumstances besides those envisioned in the 1944 document.

Bishop Bernardin noted that the Vatican had at the same time specifically denied press reports that permission had been granted to some unnamed dioceses in the United States for experimentation with general absolution.

Bishop Bernardin stated:

"It is clear that no abrupt or radical change should be expected in the manner in which the Sacrament of Penance has

traditionally been administered in the United States. An announcement by the Vatican press office on Jan. 14 states that the Holy See is now studying the possibility of extending to special well-determined cases permission for general absolution. It says nothing about the timetable for this study or its probable outcome. The announcement also states that the study was undertaken at the request of bishops in missionary countries.

"It is impossible to speculate at this time as to what extensions of this permission, if any, might be forthcoming from the Holy See at some later date. It should, however, be noted that the Vatican press office specifically denied press reports that permission for experimental use of general absolution had been granted to some unnamed dioceses in this country."

Dutch Cardinal Meets with Pope

Rome — (RNS) — Bernard Cardinal Alfrink, Primate of the Netherlands, arrived here for a meeting with Pope Paul and other Catholic Church officials, mainly on the controversial appointment of the new bishop of Rotterdam.

Pope Paul's designation of Canon Adrien Simonis, 39, as the new head of the Rotterdam See caused considerable stir among Dutch Catholics who considered the new prelate too "traditional" and an obstacle to rapid change.

Cardinal Alfrink, considered by Vatican circles to be a top Church mediator, has for years assumed such a role in dealings between the Vatican and the majority of Dutch Catholics who oppose centralized control by the Vatican and the Roman Curia.

Cardinal Alfrink is also expected to meet with Jean Cardinal Villot, Vatican secretary of state and members of the Permanent Secretariat of the World Synod of Bishops, currently in session to prepare for next Fall's synod.

Unity Progress 'Slow,' Pope Paul Laments

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul lamented the "slow and difficult" progress of ecumenism in a speech keying on the opening of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, admitting that the divisions between Christians are "unfortunately profound" and remain "unsolved."

The pontiff, speaking on the necessity of Christian unity "according to desire expressed by Christ," told a Sunday morning crowd in St. Peter's Square that the unity week celebration must be a week of "reflection and study."

He said everyone now admits that the followers of Christ "must be of one heart and one mind, one Church, one community, as was Christ's intention," adding that such unity is an "intrinsic requirement" of the body of believers that is the Church.

But, he added, Christians are also aware that many divisions in the Church "constitute a contradiction . . ." He added:

"The Church and visible im-

age of the faithful are the same things in Christ's thoughts and wishes. But historical reality, as we know it, did not realize the words of God that 'they might be one.' The divisions between Christians . . . are unfortunately profound and have remained unsolved until now.

"They concern the essential elements of Christianity. They concern the faith. They concern charity, even if the common baptism has until now been a substantial basis for communion."

The pontiff declared "it cannot be like this, Christ is not followed enough."

He went on to note that Christ is not interpreted as He wishes and thus the world cannot place its faith in religion which lacks the "true cohesion of faith and interior cohesions of brotherhood."

Pope Paul affirmed that the Catholic Church, despite historical defects, retains its "prerogative and duty" to "personify this original unity and to constitute . . . the center of the whole Christian world."

Action on Blaine Repeal Too Late, Bishops Declare

(Continued from Page 1)

quences" for the non-public schools.

The Blaine repealer, the bishops also note, will not guarantee Church-related colleges and universities any aid under the 1969 Bundy Law either. That law provided for certain sums as grants to colleges and uni-

versities based on the number of degrees awarded in any one year.

Grants to Church-related schools have been withheld on constitutional grounds cited by the administrators of the law. There is no assurance that if Blaine is repealed the funds will not still be withheld on constitutional grounds relating to the First Amendment.

The difference is Bundy aid is paid directly to colleges whereas Parent Aid and Scholar Incentive Aid is predicated on grants to students themselves . . . a process which has withstood constitutional challenge and been declared constitutional by the courts.

Bishops in Tribute

Tributes to Msgr. John S. Randall, who retired last week after nearly 40 years' service in the Rochester Diocese, came from two bishops he had served:

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan — "Msgr. Randall was one of the most zealous of our diocesan priests. In his long priesthood he was assigned several of the most difficult tasks ever asked of a priest, and fulfilled the expectations of the diocese excellently.

"My close relationship with him, particularly in the funding and building of Beckett Hall and in preparations for my ordination as bishop, makes me personally grateful for his services. We regret the departure of a priest who has done so much for the Church so generously."

Retired Bishop James E. Kearney — "Msgr. Randall was devoted and tireless about every activity in which he was asked to take part. There are very few institutions in the entire diocese — charitable, educational or parochial — which are not indebted to Msgr. Randall for his generous support in every effort to improve them.

"One feature of Msgr. Randall's service was his enthusiasm about everything he did. This made those for whom he worked so much happier in calling on him for assistance. We shall miss him very much."

Non-Public School Aid Rises in Pennsylvania

Harrisburg, Pa. — (RNS) — Pennsylvania state aid to parochial and other non-public schools has increased from \$6.4 million in the 1969-70 school year to an estimated \$36.1 million in 1971-72, according to the State Department of Education.

In the current 1970-71 year, \$17.6 million is going to the private schools, most of which are Roman Catholic.

Despite the mushrooming public aid program, which takes the form of "purchase of edu-

New Pledge Advocated

Pittsburgh — (RNS) — An amendment to the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was among the recommendations presented to President Nixon from a forum on "Crisis in Values" held at the White House Conference on Children.

United Methodist Bishop Roy C. Nichols of Pittsburgh, chairman of the forum, reported that the group proposed an "act of personal dedication" be included in the pledge.

Their revised pledge would read:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, and dedicate myself to the task of making it one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

national service" in Pennsylvania, there are recurring rumors that Catholic officials plan widespread closing of parochial schools because of financial problems.

The purchase system, however, has been challenged in the courts and, in November 1969, a three-judge federal panel dismissed, 2-1, a suit challenging the aid was unconstitutional. The decision was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court and arguments will be heard on the case in February.