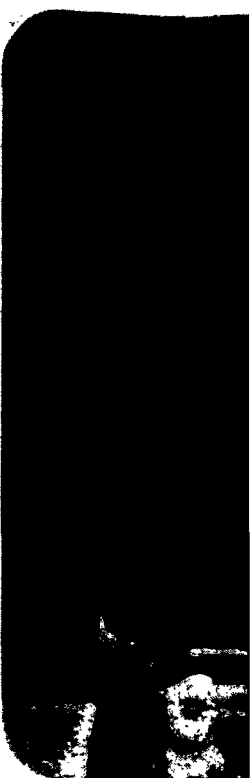
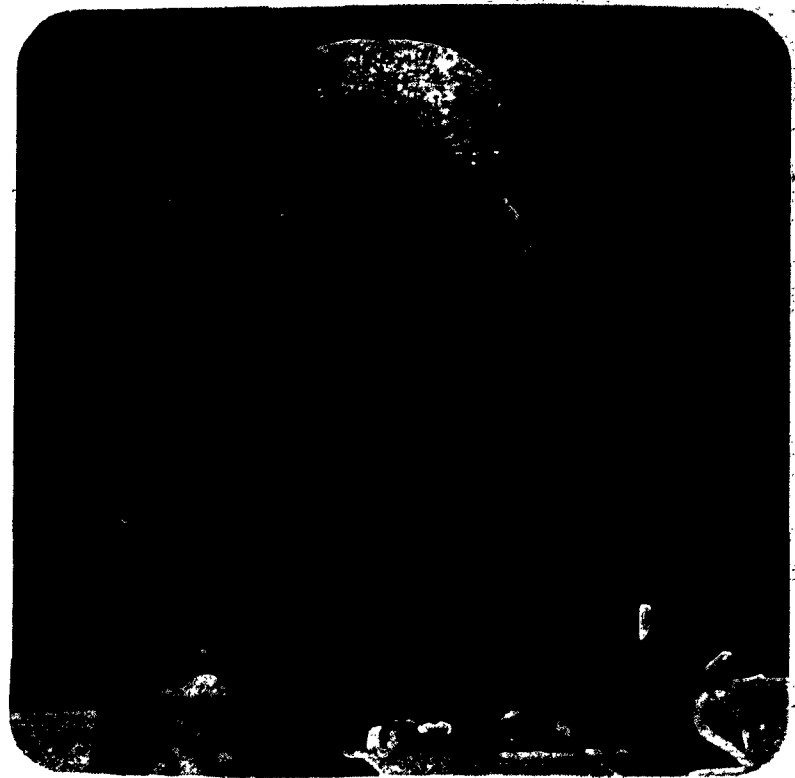


BISHOP JAMES E. KEARNEY

A BISHOP FORTY YEARS



These most recent photos, ta

TEXT BY LAURENCE E. KEEFE

The eyes are still piercing and the voice warm and firm as he talks to the priests he raised about the need for loyalty.

As he celebrates 40 years as a bishop, the man who has become a walking symbol of the Church in Rochester still likes a song and a jig.

Bishop James E. Kearney still possesses the clarity of mind and the strength of personality which guided this diocese from 1937 until his retirement in 1966.

Bishop Kearney was born Oct. 28, 1884 at Red Oak, Iowa, but was raised in New York City after the age of two. After his early education in city public schools, he attended Teachers' College from 1901 to 1903.

After six months in his first teaching post at P.S. 25, the future Bishop enrolled in St. Joseph's seminary, the archdiocesan institution at Dunwoodie, N.Y.

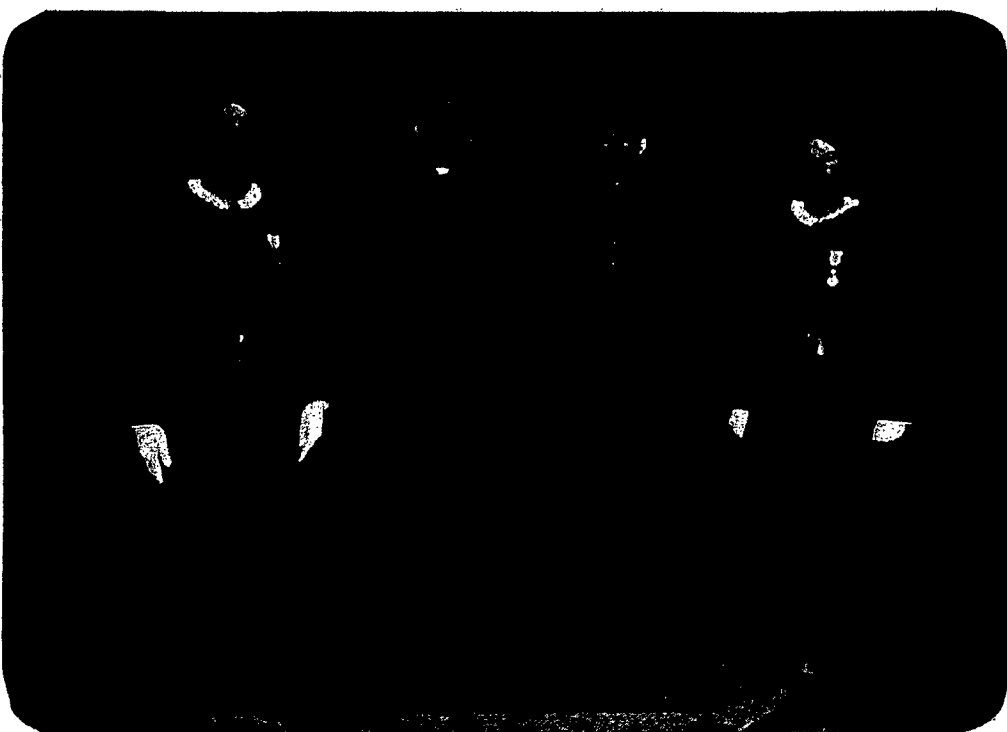
Bishop Thomas Cusack, auxiliary bishop of New York ordained him Father Kearney on Sept. 19, 1908, after which he went to Catholic University in Washington, D.C., for a year of postgraduate study.

A major achievement of Father Kearney during his years in the Bronx was the establishment of St. Francis Xavier parish during 1928. He also served prior to that time as superintendent of Catholics schools in the Bronx.

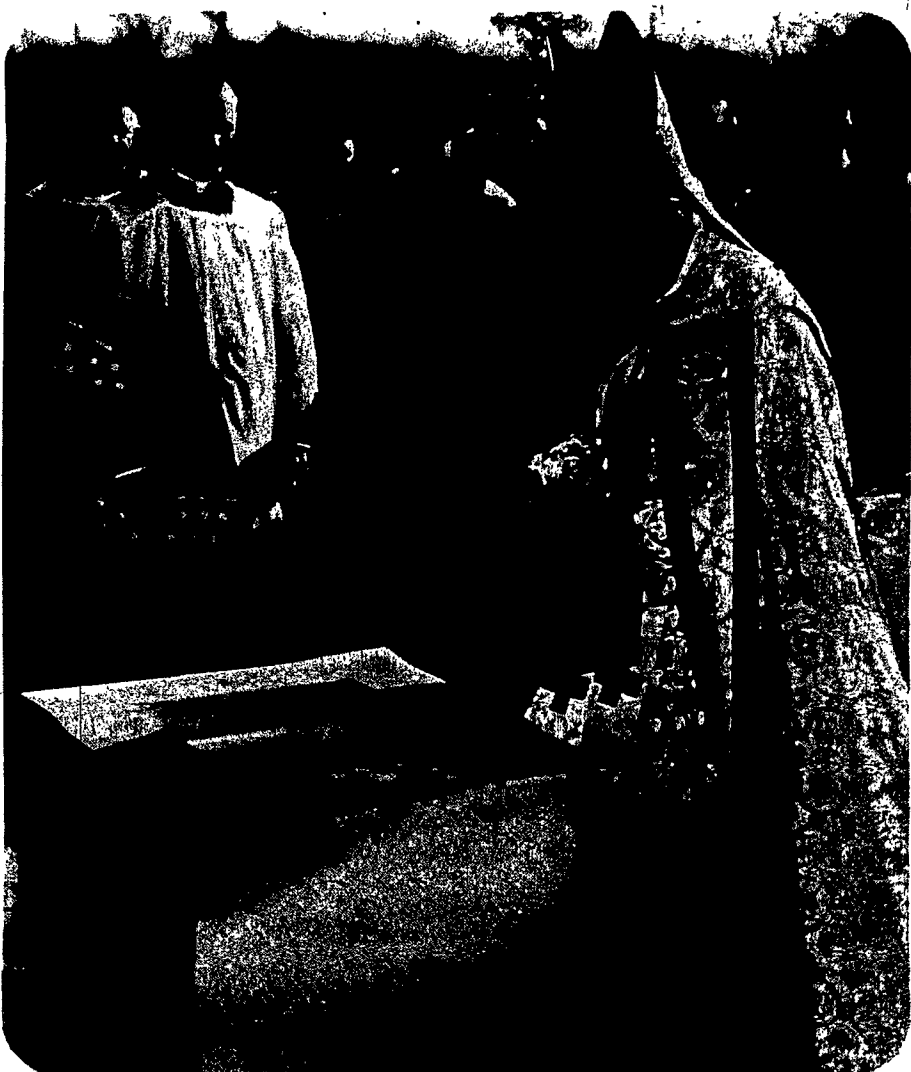
Appointment to his first see came on July 4, 1932 when he was named bishop of Salt Lake City, Utah, a missionary diocese in an area heavily populated by Mormons. The fourth bishop of Utah, however, made sure progress. He increased the number of priests from 23 to 33, and was able to pay off the debt and consecrate the Cathedral of the Madeleine.

Bishop Kearney was installed in the Rochester see on Nov. 11, 1937, and immediately embarked on a series of travels to acquaint himself with his new diocese.

Following the end of the depression and the conclusion of World War II in 1945, Bishop Kearney was able to embark on a long deferred building program that eventually included many new churches.



With Bishop Walter Foery, Bishop Kearney poses in the Vatican after their audiences with the Pope on May 13, 1949.



Bishop Kearney lays cornerstone of St. Andrew's Seminary, on Nov. 30, 1949, the building which now will become the new pastoral center for the entire diocese of Rochester.



His first summer in Rochester, 1937, saw Bishop Kearney celebrating Mass for the Catholic Students' Missionary Crusade on the field of Silver Stadium.