

COURIER-JOURNAL

32 Pages

Wednesday, January 19, 1977

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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

20 Cents

THOUSANDS MOURN BISHOP KEARNEY



'His Presence Was A Blessing'

In Sacred Heart Cathedral, on the evening of Sunday, Jan. 17, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan spoke the following words to the assembly at the Mass of Christ the High Priest for Bishop James E. Kearney.

There are two touching chapters in the Book of Genesis that describe the last days of the patriarch Jacob. You will recall that on the invitation of their long-lost brother Joseph, the eleven other sons of Jacob brought their aged father down to Egypt to live. When the old man began to fail, he called his twelve sons to his bedside. He invoked a last blessing upon them:

"May the God in whose ways my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd from my birth to this day, the Angel who has delivered me from all harm, bless these boys that in them my name may be recalled. . . ." (Gen. 48: 15-16). Then, after a few final words, he lay down, gave up his soul, and was gathered to his fathers.

We meet tonight, my dear friends, to mourn the passing of James Edward Kearney, at the age of ninety-two. He was the patriarch of the Diocese of Rochester. He was a second Jacob, for the names James and Jacob are the same.

Not only did he die invoking God's name upon us; his presence among us for almost forty years was itself a blessing, and among us his name will long be recalled.

Bishop Kearney became the fifth head of the Diocese of Rochester in 1937. In 1966, obedient as ever to the decrees of the Pope, he submitted his resignation. Since his retirement he has remained among us to our great consolation. But the past ten years have been an epilogue. When he stepped down from the bishop's chair, it was the end of an era in the Diocese of Rochester: the era of foundation and

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