



The bishops gather at the altar. From left to right are Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, Patterson, N.J.; Bishop John E. McCafferty, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Father Michael Conboy, Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, and Bishop John M. Fearn, retired auxiliary of New York.



Leading the procession into the church are Mr. Robert Schrader, Mr. Robert Werth, Mr. Michael Bausch, and Mr. Michael Huerter.

Transition Mass Draws 1,100 to the Cathedral

More than 1,100 priests, religious and laity filled Sacred Heart Cathedral on the evening of Sunday, Jan. 16, for a celebration of the Mass of Christ the High Priest in honor of Bishop James Edward Kearney, who died on Jan. 12.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan was the principal celebrant for the Mass. Nearly fifty bishops, priests and laymen filled the vast sanctuary of the church.

During the rites the sense of grief and loss was visibly evident among those gathered.

Bishop Hogan, who also preached the homily, cited Bishop Kearney's fatherliness and concern for the priests whom he had ordained in the diocese.

The Mass of Christ the High Priest celebrates the hierarchical priesthood shared by bishops, priests and deacons.

Drawing from the Book of Genesis, Bishop Hogan compared the deceased prelate with the patriarch Jacob. Jacob, he said, is the same name as James. Bishop Hogan cited the concern and attention he had received from Bishop Kearney throughout his priestly life. He also spoke on the numbers of people whose lives were touched by the prelate.

Bishop Hogan said that Bishop Kearney was truly a "good shepherd."

Mourners included members of fraternal organizations (who also

formed honor guards at the casket of the bishop), representatives from the schools and institutions which Bishop Kearney founded or headed, representatives of the orders who have made foundations in the diocese, civic and religious leaders, as well as hundreds of priests, religious and laymen whose lives were touched by the deceased bishop during his episcopate.

Photographs of Bishop Kearney's rites were taken by Susan McKinney and Ben Susso.



Mourners file past the casket of Bishop Kearney at the close of the Mass on Sunday night.

Sibley's

deeply mourns the passing of

The Most Reverend James E. Kearney, D.D.

Bishop Emeritus of the

Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester

a Christian gentleman,

a great and good shepherd.