

Tributes ... 'Behold, A Great Priest'

Thomas O'Connor, former news editor of the Courier-Journal—Spiritually inspiring as well as fatherly was Bishop James E. Kearney from the time he arrived at New York Central Station to an outstanding turnout until last we saw him within the year at St. Ann's Home.

While he was always the friend of our lay groups in the diocese, Bishop Kearney's activities in the Knights of Columbus were particularly observed by this writer.

Attendance at lay programs was always at a highpoint when he presided. In the early 1940s he was the state chaplain of the K of C. In this capacity he encouraged foundation of the First Friday Club. His message in June and at Christmas each year brought out record attendance. He served as supreme chaplain for the Knights of St. John. Spiritual groups such as the Nocturnal Adoration Society received his leadership and as a result the turnout of Catholic men was unparalleled in our time of observance. When he attended Catholic Women's exercises, the result was comparable.

His memory is indelibly etched upon us and we, especially my family, are deeply grateful for his many kindnesses.

Robert A. Kidera, president of Nazareth College— "Bishop Kearney is as much a part of the college's tradition as its founders and presidents. It was he who approved and enthusiastically supported construction of the first buildings on the present college campus on East Avenue.

"It was he who made the term 'Bishop Kearney's holidays'—those days when he officially visited the campus—a warm and permanent memory in the minds and hearts of thousands of Nazareth College alumnae.

"And it was he, as a concerned, caring member of our family, who shared with us every joy and sadness of our growth.

"Bishop Kearney was devoted to education—and to Nazareth—and that devotion will forever enrich the lives of the thousands of Nazareth students, faculty and staff he touched so personally and so lovingly through the years."

Helen Durnan of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae—"The circle wishes to pay tribute to Bishop Kearney for his fatherly devotion and his participation in its spiritual activities for over 30 years. The federation's appreciation of Bishop Kearney is appropriately expressed in words of the Old Testament—Behold, a great priest!"

Rochester Mayor Thomas P. Ryan Jr., on behalf of the City Council—The passing of Bishop Kearney marks a sad moment for all Rochesterians, for we have suffered the loss of a friend and benefactor as well as of a beloved and respected religious leader.

"Many of us will always remember him as a learned and spellbinding orator, both at the public lectern and on the church altar who could transmit his enthusiasm to an audience of thousands. To others, he was an extremely effective organizer who had a rare ability to identify social needs and then enlist people of many different religious faiths to tackle a project.

"He was a leader who was not just concerned about the spiritual well-being of



Bishop Kearney with members of the Sioux Nation in South Dakota.

Catholics in his diocese, but rather, who showed his concern for the total well-being of the entire community.

"I think it is proper for Rochesterians to take a moment this week to reflect on the contributions of this great civic and religious leader, and friend of our community. The pleasure he derived from serving others

has provided everyone of us with an example to follow in both our private and public lives."

Gov. Hugh L. Carey—"I am saddened by the passing of Bishop Kearney who was a great churchman, a great educator and a humbly great human being. His death will be mourned throughout New York.

His experience as a teacher inspired him to stress the value of education throughout his remarkable career...

"Bishop Kearney was a warm, witty and widely admired churchman who served his God and his flock with the fullest measure of dedication and devotion. His good will be felt by generations to come."

'... Until the Lord Sees Fit to Beckon'

The following excerpt from a Bill Beene column in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle of April 9, 1964, explains itself:

The library has what it calls an "Operation Bullseye" program designed to bring to the attention of top, key people in technical fields the newest books published in those fields. Whenever these books are received the library mails them to individuals they believe will be interested...

Alan Cuseo of the Art Division wanted to send a recent new book, "Modern Cemetery Management" to the director of Holy

Sepulchre. Unable to find any listing giving the name of the person in charge, he did discover the name of the president of the board of trustees, and sent the book to him, addressed: The Right Reverend Bishop Kearney, Bishop of Rochester, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 2461 Lake Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14612.

A few weeks later the library received a reply from Bishop Kearney:

"In making a belated return of this volume may I express the regret that only at this late date had it come to my attention.

"While I do expect,

eventually, to take up residence at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (a marble shelf has already been allotted to me), I am postponing such residence until the Lord sees fit to beckon. Then I shall be entirely indifferent to 'Modern Cemetery Management' or 'Antique Management.'

"Hence the difficulty of locating me in the restful realms of 2461 Lake Avenue and the wandering of the volume around town.

"I have enjoyed the reading and regret the delay in proper timing of the return, and kindly apprise me of the penalty, if you will... James E. Kearney."



The pallbearers Fathers Robert Bradler, Frank Falletta, John Hedges, Daniel Holland, William Endres and Stephen Martin, CSB, carry Bishop Kearney's casket into Sacred Heart Cathedral on Friday. Bishop Kearney lay in state for 72 hours.

High Schools Pay Tribute

The Diocesan Catholic High Schools honored Bishop James E. Kearney in a variety of ways:

Bishop Kearney High School celebrated four memorial masses on Friday, Jan. 14. BK students served as honor guards at Sacred Heart Cathedral, and Brother William Stoldt was a principal reader at the Mass of the High Priest, celebrated on Sunday, Jan. 16.

Notre Dame, Elmira, offered a special liturgy on Thursday, Jan. 13 and arranged for a special student delegation to attend the Monday, Jan. 17 services at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

DeSales High School celebrated a special mass and the school's principal, Edward Tracy, visited classrooms speaking on historical incidents and

human anecdotes regarding Bishop Kearney.

Aquinas celebrated six masses between periods on Friday, Jan. 14.

Our Lady of Mercy High School is planning memorial services and Nazareth Academy will hold a special Mass on Thursday, Jan. 20.

Also holding memorial services this week is Cardinal Mooney High School. On Jan. 20 there will be periods set aside for a series of rosary offerings, and on Jan. 21 five liturgies will be celebrated.

McQuaid Jesuit's High School held a commemorative prayer service and arranged a display of memorabilia which included the spade used to turn the ground for the school's foundation and Bishop Kearney's ring which

he gave the school a few years ago.

St. Agnes High School will offer a scholarship in honor

of Bishop Kearney.

All schools sent student representatives to the Mass of Christian Burial, celebrated Monday, Jan. 17.



Father Thomas Wheeland (left) and Bishop John E. McCafferty listen to a Gospel reading during the getting down ceremony.