

# Bishop Sheen Named As His Successor

(Continued from Page 15)

If he disagreed with the policies of his successors, Bishop Kearney would never have expressed his disagreement publicly. With typical loyalty, he urged his former flock to respect and obey their new leaders. And if he was depressed by anarchic trends in the Church, he was too much an optimist and too much a man of seasoned faith to think that the Church would fail. His official motto was "In Te, Domine, speravi." "In You, Lord, is my hope"; and he lived by that Christian hope. The time would come, he prophesied, when the pendulum would swing in the other direction.

Today, there are signs that his prediction may be coming true.

James Edward Kearney was not essentially a theologian, nor a Scripture scholar. He was a good administrator. It is true that he disliked the nitty-gritty of managerial duties; but when he was asked for a solution to definite problem, he arrived at one with a rare discernment. A parallel talent was his ability to defuse an explosive issue with just the right tactical approach.

In other words, Bishop Kearney's principal gifts were pastoral. Even as bishop, he remained the parish priest; the only difference was that the boundaries of his parish had been extended from a few city blocks to a diocesan cluster of counties. This is why the people of the Rochester diocese hold his memory in affection: he was a man of simple and stalwart faith who by heartening example and word strengthened them in their own traditional faith and practice.

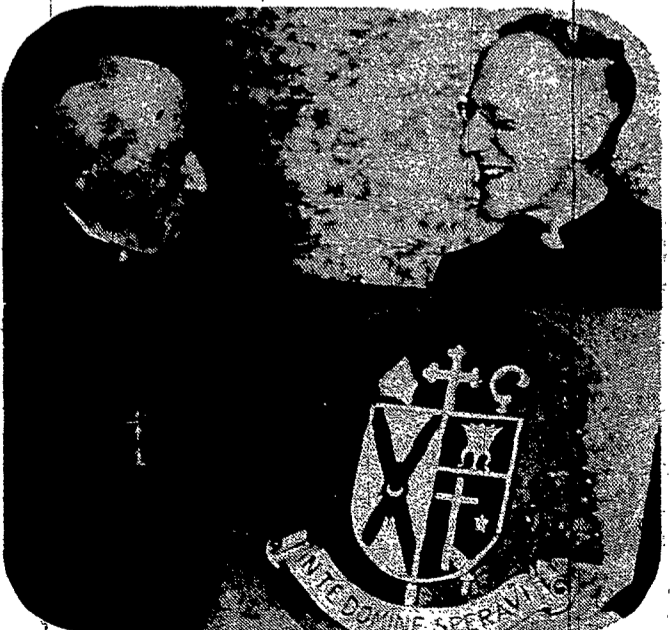
When Pope Pius XII died in 1958, James Kearney bade him an official farewell in a quotation from Shakespeare's Hamlet.

It is appropriate for us to offer for the former Bishop of Rochester the same farewell prayer of Horatio:

Now cracks a noble heart. Good-night, sweet prince,  
And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!



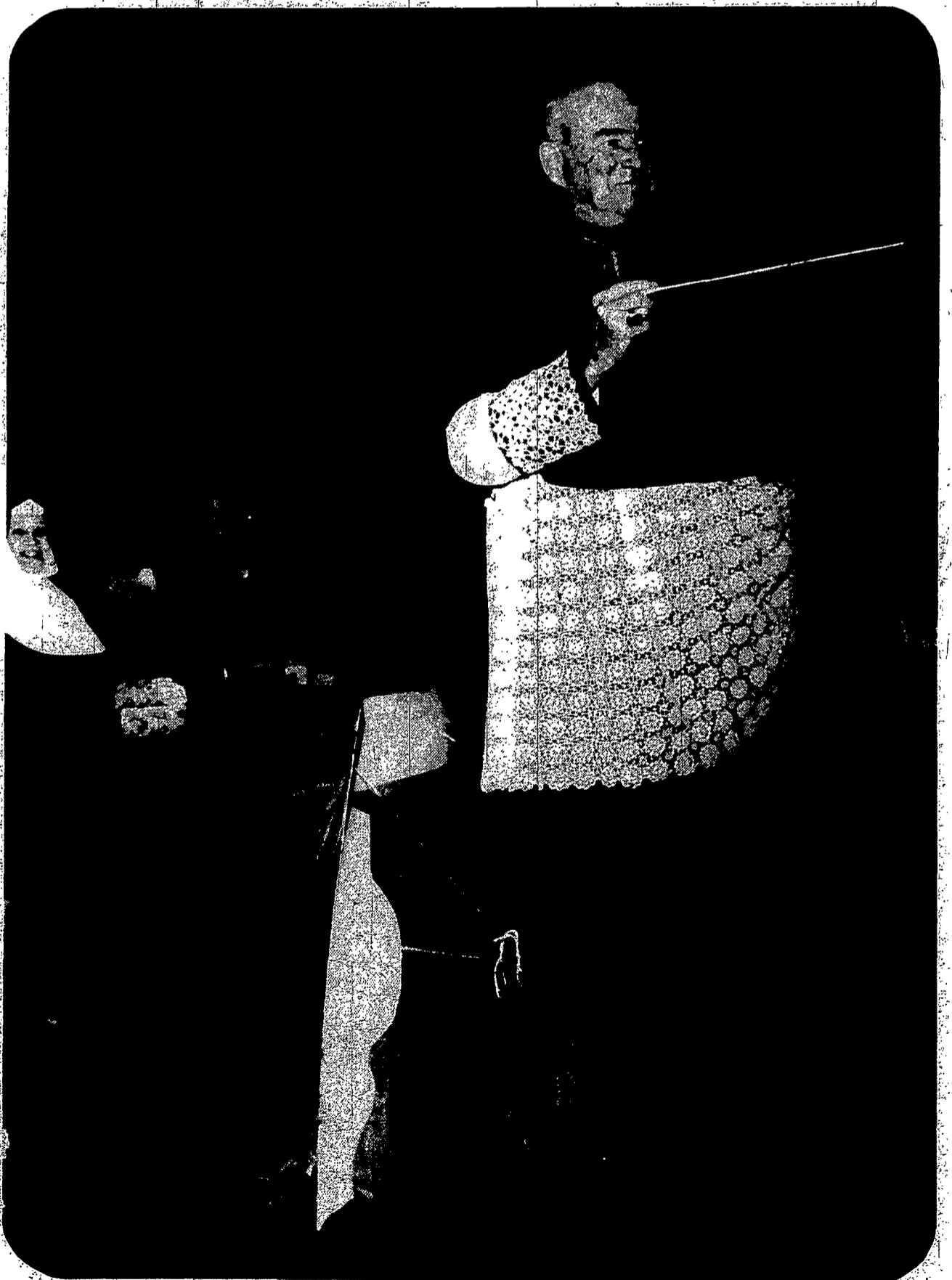
One of the last pictures of Bishop Kearney: last summer he was on hand as the Town of Irondequoit presented St. Ann's Home and the Heritage with a bicentennial flag. From left to right, Donald Deming, town supervisor; Father John Hempel, St. Ann's chaplain; Bishop Kearney, Anthony J. Costello, town councilman and general manager of the Courier-Journal; Mrs. Julia Sawner and Charles Welch.



Retired Bishop Kearney presents his coat-of-arms to Father Robert F. McNamara of St. Bernard's Seminary to be enshrined in the Lake Avenue seminary.



At the installation of his successor. From left Cardinal Francis J. Spellman, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen and Bishop Kearney.



Bishop Kearney spontaneously decides to direct Glee Club during the 1961 Christmas party at Nazareth College.