

# COURIER-JOURNAL

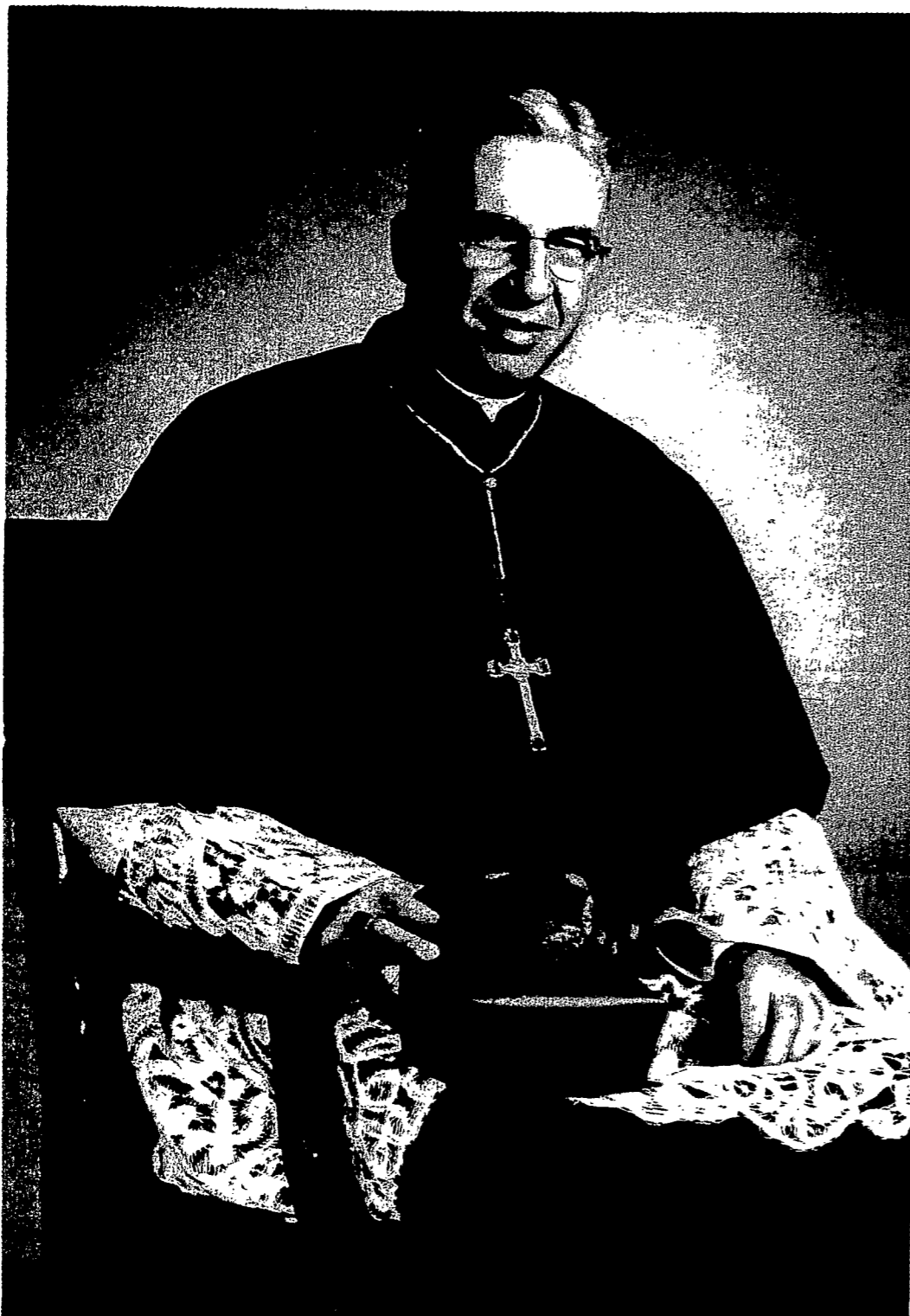
NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

20 Pages

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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER 20 Cents

## Diocese Mourns Bishop Casey



**Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, fifth bishop of Paterson, N.J., and former auxiliary bishop of Rochester, died June 15, 1977, at the age of 71. The Rochester native was laid to rest in Paterson's Calvary Cemetery last Monday.**

Archbishop Peter Leo Gerety of Newark was principal concelebrant of the Mass of Christian Burial in the Paterson Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Flags in city streets were flown at half-staff that day, and public meetings were cancelled.

Bishop Casey, undergoing, as he said, "terminal illness," had applied to the Pope for release from his duties. Official notice that his resignation had been accepted came from Rome via Washington on the day before his death. He had written an explanation of it for the June 16 issue of his diocesan newspaper.

He described the course of his illness from intestinal cancer to proliferating lung cancer, and said his doctors had told him he was losing the battle.

"I knew it would not be fair to the people or the Church of Paterson to attempt to continue in office," he wrote. "The needs are too pressing, the demands too unyielding. They require the full-time attention of a spiritual leader who has that most precious of possessions — his health."

The day before the paper came out, Bishop Casey died, at 9:15 in the morning, in his home.

On his last afternoon, he had visited with two old friends from Rochester, Bishop John E. McCafferty and Father James Marvin.

Bishop McCafferty and Bishop Dennis W. Hickey attended the funeral. They invited the Rochester public to a Mass of Christ the High Priest to be celebrated in Sacred Heart Cathedral at 8 p.m. tomorrow.

Bishop Casey, longer in office than any of his predecessors in the 39 years of the Paterson See, commanded nationwide attention in 1975 when he issued a statement on the widely publicized Karen Quinlan case. As the

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### Let All Remember

The public is invited to participate in a Mass of Christ the High Priest at 8 tomorrow evening in Sacred Heart Cathedral. Many of Bishop Casey's former assistants and Chancery associates will concelebrate with Auxiliary Bishops John E. McCafferty and Dennis W. Hickey. Bishop McCafferty, Cathedral rector, will give the homily.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will offer a Mass for Bishop Casey in Rome, at one of the altars in St. Peter's Basilica.

This is how far he carried the cranky editor role: having accepted a person of newspaper background as publicity chairman of his

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### Bishop Hogan

I am deeply saddened by the news of the death of Bishop Casey. For years, he has been to me a good friend, a strong support, a wise counsellor, and a great inspiration.

As I followed his days in Paterson through the pages of The Beacon, I found a continuation of the same zeal for God's Kingdom which characterized his years in Rochester. His was always the full measure of devotion.

I am grateful for the blessings that have come to all of us whose lives he has touched in some way, and I commend his noble soul to the Great High Priest, Jesus.

### Bishop Hickey

Bishop Casey concluded his farewell talk to the priests of the diocese on his departure for Paterson with the words: "I hope I shall always be remembered as Lawrence of Rochester." The 11 years since his installation have seen this hope realized for no name has been more frequently heard among the presbyterate than that of Bishop Lawrence Casey who so profoundly influenced generations of Rochester priests. Bishop Casey "tapped" many priests for difficult assignments during his days in Rochester. When he was named Ordinary of Paterson, he responded affirmatively with the same motivation that characterized the Rochester priests of whom he made so many difficult requests: the good of the Church. Bishop Casey was a living example of total dedication to Christ and His Church. The words of John the Baptist apply literally to him: "He must increase; I must decrease."

### Bishop McCafferty

Bishop Casey believed in going all the way. When he studied for the priesthood, he, no doubt unconsciously, went for the fulness of the priesthood. His capacity for hard work and bent for perfection carried him, in only two years, from his studies at St. Bernard's Seminary to his studies at the Chancery. Bishops were attracted by his zeal and integrity. He served as secretary to three of Rochester's first five bishops, an unusual feat in itself since in this area it is thought (and sometimes said): "No man can serve two masters." Father Casey's master was the bishop, his love was the Church. It did not matter that the name was Bishop O'Hern, Archbishop Mooney or Bishop Kearney. He could and did work with them all, gave his best. And none of them ever looked for a replacement.

As the years passed and Bishop Kearney was approaching his seventieth

birthday, he sought an auxiliary bishop, and his former secretary was chosen. Between 1953 and 1966, Bishop Casey was the trusted aide and confidant of the Bishop of Rochester. Now, bishop and Church implied greater responsibility than ever, but with singlemindedness he served the bishop in every area of diocesan life, but especially as personnel director and administrator.

Perhaps one of the secrets of his unique understanding of the Church rests in his pastoral ministry. He was never content to be a "chancery official." While serving the Bishops of Rochester, he found time to be a teacher of religion at Mercy High School and chaplain to the city jail. He did have seven years of uninterrupted parish ministry at Holy Cross, but just before his appointment as bishop he became rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral

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### They Remember

Msgr. William J. Naughton, who celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination with Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, said of the prelate, "He was the closest friend I had. He regarded me as his closest friend. We were in grammar school together, at Corpus Christi. He was as dedicated a priest as I ever heard of. He often spoke of Babe Ruth, striking out, but he often hit home runs."

"He made mistakes," Msgr. Naughton said, "but he was the first to admit them."

Recognized as an extremely astute administrator and indefatigable worker, the bishop also was a man of diverse talents.

Jack Tucker, writing in the Times-Union in February, 1953, when the announcement was made of Bishop Casey's elevation to auxiliary bishop, told of some of the early jobs of the young Casey.

He worked "as an errand boy in the press room of the

Times-Union" when he was 13, Tucker wrote. "He also had been peddling newspapers for five years, with a route covering the area between Selye Terrace and Augustine Street in the 10th Ward, and he picked up a few more quarters by operating a newstand summers at Ontario Beach Park, catering to customers aboard the old Manitou Line."

But even at 13, Tucker noted, "there was no doubt in his mind what he wanted to do... he was already attending St. Andrew's Seminary."

Frank Wolfe, financial adviser to the diocese, also disclosed some details about the youthful Casey: "I can remember him coming to my father, Otto Wolfe, who was a music teacher, for mandolin lessons."

Wolfe also told of another job seminarian Casey held — "he worked in the stock room at Timely Clothes."

Bishop Casey's interest in journalism persisted. He wrote several articles on Vatican Council II for the Courier-Journal. And after he went to Paterson, N.J., he wrote Father Henry Atwell, then editor of the Courier-Journal:

"Off the record, we're working on having our own paper here. If we do have one, I'm going to write a column in it each week, and that should be a honey."

Bishop Casey quite openly prided himself on his skill in putting one little word after another, and he wanted it understood that writing was hard work, requiring strict discipline. He once reported that he had spent six hours preparing a three-minute, after-dinner speech, and there was a strong implication that others should do likewise.

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