

Geneva Meets A New Bishop, Fulton J. Sheen



A NEW BISHOP comes to Geneva... Top left, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen meditates before Mass at St. Francis de Sales Church; Top Center, Bishop Sheen gives his sermon to the St. Francis congregation from the pulpit;

Top right, the sermon at St. Stephen's Church; Bottom left, greeting parishioners outside St. Francis Church; Bottom center, in St. Stephen's Rectory with (l-r) Father Riefer of Stanley, Father O'Beirne of Seneca Falls, Father

Simpson of Phelps, Father Nolan of St. Stephen's, Bishop Sheen, Msgr. Ball of St. Francis, Msgr. Sullivan of Penn Yan, Father Nolan of Canandaigua, and Father Aloysius of Immaculate Heart Seminary; Bottom right, Honor

Guard, Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, receives communion at St. Francis DeSales Church.

The Bishop Finds People of His Own, The Shepherd With A Flock

By HELEN CASEY
 "This is the first parish outside of Rochester I have visited. I thought it the best place to 'get the ball rolling' - to get acquainted and to beg for your prayers." This famous visitor, the Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, new bishop of the Rochester diocese, by his every action, every word, made clear his happiness and having people of his own, "shepherd with a flock." when he came to Geneva yesterday to celebrate Mass at St. Francis de Sales and St. Stephen's Churches.

Bishop Sheen was installed as leader of the Roman Catholic 12-county diocese of Rochester, Thursday, at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester. He succeeds Bishop James E. Kearney, now retired.

In his sermon at the 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Francis, Bishop Sheen's theme centered on his intention of knowing the people of the diocese.

Stressing the importance of the laity, Bishop Sheen told the congregation there would be no priests in the sanctuary if "it were not for you, the laity."

"We realize your importance, at the Vatican Council we started with you, the people," he said. "I want to be your servant,"

he said, and reminding the people of the first parish announced the owner of a certain car had left parked with the motor running.

About 8:45 a. m., through a side entrance of the church, the silvered haired, medium framed, Bishop Sheen casually strolled in, his face crinkled with an open smile, as the congregation, caught off-guard, bobbed through an attempt to stand and kneel at the same time.

The bishop catching their surprised bewilderment immediately motioned the crowd to be seated and seizing the opportunity to execute the wit he is known for, said, "Do you always come to church this way? Must be a special collection today. I am delighted to see you."

The beautifully renovated St. Francis de Sales Church was filled to capacity before 8 a.m. with Genevans waiting to meet the new bishop, a man known for his conversion of famous persons to the Catholic faith, his mission work, his TV shows and his syndicated column.

Photographers were busy adjusting their equipment, while the orderly congregation sat peering anxiously at every activity inside the church. The suspense was relaxed with an Advent Season. He re-entered

All priests and the bishop distributed Holy Communion at the Communion service.

At the close of the Mass two very young children, Susan Cannuli, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cannuli of 55 Middle St., and Frank Gadsen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gadsen, of C&S Charities Homes, presented the bishop with a bouquet of red roses and a spiritual bou-

quet. It is a custom in the Roman Catholic faith to give spiritual bouquets as gifts. These bouquets are made of pledges of attendance at Mass, rosaries, Holy Communion and prayers for the intentions of the receiver of the gift.

Taking his time, the bishop kept the little children on the altar talking to them. Men, women and children lined the sidewalks to the rectory, reaching out to shake hands with the bishop who stopped every few feet to speak to someone. The bishop, who declined the usual gem stoneware worn by bishops in favor of a simpler ring given him by Pope Paul VI, made no attempt to promote the tradition of kissing the bishop's ring. Instead, he grasped the hands of many in a gesture of friendship.

He had time for everyone—even a curious puppy. The bishop stopped while in formal procession and patted the dog's head.

Reaching the rectory door, he waved a final "good-bye" to the crowd and hurried inside before making an unscheduled appearance at the 9:45 a.m. Mass at St. Francis and then off to St. Stephen's to celebrate the 11 a.m. Mass, where the same scenes were re-enacted.

A Reporter Finds The Bishop Has Time

The crowds love him, this famous man who has become the spiritual leader of the Rochester Roman Catholic Diocese. Bishop Sheen walked among the people gathered outside church, talking to them, hugging the children, shaking hands, having time for everyone.

And this he did, as he granted this reporter a brief private interview in St. Francis de Sales rectory following the 8:30 a.m. Mass and before he left to talk at the 9:45 a.m. Mass.

The interview was arranged by the bishop's secretary, the affable Father James M. Moynihan who looks like he'd be at home in a crowd of Green Bay Packer linemen, and the congenial Msgr. Edward K. Ball, pastor of St. Francis Church.

With only 15 minutes at the most between schedules, the bishop thought a moment and said, "Come have some coffee with me, even reporters have to eat, you know."

Proceeding to the dining room, the bishop stopped to embrace some altar boys and thanked them for serving at the Mass. He had words of advice for them, and, as is his reputation, told a story on himself of the time he, as a young altar boy, served Mass for a bishop and broke a cruet during the Mass. The little boys were wide-eyed at the horror of the thought which brought a chuckle from the bishop.

What could be asked of this man who has filled the area papers daily? Quick to sense the dilemma of a woman with only five minutes to talk, the bishop quipped, "You know, it is easy to write about the past, everyone knows it. But, as for the future, this will be a new experience."

To the question, "Why Geneva first?" he said, "I chose Geneva because it is reasonably close and simply because I had heard good things about it. I just thought it would be a good place to start."

The bishop, whose columns appear in about 70 newspapers here and in Latin America, said he will continue writing them.

His columns are seldom written more than one or two weeks in advance, he said, and he finds time for his many duties by getting up around 5:30 a.m. and starting work early.

As for his TV program which begins Christmas Day at 6 p.m. over Channel 10, he has already made 26 tapes. He spoke of a new TV series now in the talking stages and then with his eyes twinkling and a slight grin on his face, said, "Maybe with such personalities as Harry Hershfield, Milton Berle and some others."

At this point, it was announced it was time for the bishop to speak at St. Francis 9:45 a.m. Mass. With his deep set blue eyes focusing in intent sincerity, he apologized for having to leave so soon—and the next minute was bounding up the rectory stairs, two steps at a time.

The rest of the time was spent talking with Father Lioi and Nick Gillette, one of the four lay leaders at St. Francis de Sales Church. By the relation system, it was Nick's turn to lead the parishioners in songs and responses at the 8:30 a.m. Mass yesterday. "A great thrill for me," said Nick.

Father Lioi told of some of the events at the bishop's installation Mass and dinner, Thursday, and of the bishop's arrival yesterday morning in Geneva.

Father Lioi spoke with pride of his younger brother, the Rev. Frank Lioi serving as deacon at the bishop's installation Mass. He said at the dinner that night, the bishop was determined not to be rushed and kept "table hopping" to shake hands and meet people while the monsignor, who was escorting him, had his troubles trying to keep the schedule moving.

When he arrived at the rectory yesterday morning, the bishop's informality was immediately apparent. Asked what he would like done, the bishop said, "You tell me what to do and I'll do anything you say."

Then pictures were taken of Bishop Sheen and two other priests. The bishop noticing Father Hogan was not in the group told him to join them. Father Hogan replied in Latin indicating all perfect things come in threes, to which the bishop answered, "And the fourth one makes it a square."

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