

Bishop Often Related Christian Principles To Everyday Life

Aside from the many parish churches and schools he established, and numerous good works, Bishop Ready will probably be remembered best for his outstanding facility to make a speech.

As an orator in the pulpit, a guest speaker at a graduation ceremony, or in a public statement, he had no equal in Central Ohio. He had an astonishing command of the language, as well as a wealth of ideas on subjects extremely important to society. When he talked, the community listened.

The sacred permanence of marriage, the sanctity of the home and the rights of children to a Christian education were among his favorite topics.

His views on religious education, as an example were expressed in

a talk at the cornerstone laying of Bishop Watterson High School.

"We Americans would not wish to live in a country where God is banned, and the teaching of religion proscribed," he asserted.

As general secretary of the NCWC, he often appeared before congressional committees to represent the Catholic viewpoint on legislation, and proposals affecting education, immigration and federal housing.

He denounced Facism, Nazism, and all totalitarian forms of government, and took Russia to task for its dealings with Poland when Russia was regarded as a United States ally in 1944.

Msgr. Casey First to Greet Bishop Ready

Monsignor Joseph R. Casey, pastor of St. Catharine's parish, Columbus, served the diocese of Columbus as chancellor in 1944 and officially greeted Bishop Ready at the banquet honoring the new prelate in Washington.

Monsignor Casey, in welcoming Bishop Ready, said: "It is difficult indeed to give adequate expression to the sentiments of deep and sincere joy that spring from our hearts on this occasion . . . the solemn rites of this morning, which raised Monsignor Ready to the position and dignity he assumes . . . the high honors he has so richly merited.

" . . . a little less than a year ago the mournful toll of the great bell of our Cathedral struck real sorrow into the hearts of the faithful of the diocese . . . with the passing of the venerable prelate who had shepherded his diocese . . . Bishop Hartley.

"We feel that our diocese is singularly blessed in the naming of a man so well equipped to carry the burdens that are the lot of every Bishop.

" . . . and so, to Your Excellency, we bring our warmest congratulations . . . assurance of the friendliest welcome . . . and un-failing co-operation of the entire clergy, religious, and laity."

Copies Available

This special memorial issue of the Catholic Times is being mailed to all subscribers. Additional copies of this issue honoring the memory of Bishop Ready may be secured at the office of the Catholic Times, 246 E. Town Street, Columbus.

Bishop's First Ordinations Make Headlines

Bishop Ready's first ordination class made most of the country's Catholic newspapers because of the presence of twin brothers—Rev. Bernard and Rev. Charles Jones. Rev. Bennett C. Applegate and Rev. Elmer Boyden completed the first class in February of 1945.

First Confirmation At Lockbourne Air Base

Our Lady, Queen of the Skies chapel, Lockbourne airbase, was the scene of the first confirmation class administered by Bishop Ready on May 4, 1945.

Twenty airmen, four WACs and eight civilians made up the first class.

Five Deaneries Organized

Bishop Ready organized the Deanery system into the Diocese on August 3, 1945. The Diocese is now divided into five deaneries.



An Outstanding Orator

Bishop Ready delivers the June commencement address at Ohio State University in 1947. The Bishop never failed to give a Catholic viewpoint when he thought moral injustice was being done.

Bishop Was Well Known Before His Elevation

Monsignor Michael J. Ready's appointment as Bishop of the Columbus Diocese was announced Saturday, Nov. 18, 1944 by the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, D.D., Apostolic Delegate, in Washington.

At that time Monsignor Ready was serving as general secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in Washington and already was one of the most widely known clergymen in the United States.

Bishop-elect Ready succeeded the late Bishop James J. Hartley, who had served as Ordinary of the Columbus Diocese for forty years prior to his death in Columbus on Jan. 12, 1944.

Bishop Hettinger, Auxiliary Bishop of Columbus, served the diocese as administrator during the interim.

Bishop Ready had presided for nearly a decade over the headquarters of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. His participation in various international conferences had caused him to be well-known in other countries.

Archbishop Cicognani served as consecrator for Bishop-elect Ready in St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington. Co-consecrators were Archbishop John T. McNicholas, O.P., Cincinnati, and Bishop Edward F. Hoban, coadjutor of Cleveland.

Edward Cardinal Archbishop Mooney of Detroit, preached the sermon at the consecration.

Monsignor Michael J. Ready also served as secretary of the board of trustees of the National Catholic Community Service (a U.S.O. agency); secretary of the board of trustees of the War Relief Services—NCWC; president of the board of trustees of the National Catholic School of Social Service in Washington; and a member of the board of directors of the National Refugee Service, Inc., New York.

He had been called upon to address national congresses and conventions in every section of the country. In January of 1941, he gave the benediction at President Roosevelt's inauguration at the Capitol. In 1942 he was selected to give the sermon at the national service held at the Catholic university of America, commemorating the third anniversary of the coronation of Pope Pius XII.

He appeared often before committees of Congress to represent

the Catholic viewpoint on legislation and proposals affecting immigration, education, federal housing and other matters of national importance.

His efforts on behalf of divinity and theological students for exemption from military service, bore fruit when congress voted to exempt all who fell under this classification.

In 1943, on the silver jubilee of his priesthood, he received the congratulations of Pope Pius XII and President Roosevelt.

New Convents, 1945-1957

Sisters of St. Francis of the Blessed Sacrament, Portsmouth, 1956.

Little Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus, established U. S. province in 1956 and convent on Olen-tangy River Rd., Columbus.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Columbus established Motherhouse here in 1956, Villa Madonna, adjoining St. Charles College Seminary.

Holy Family Convent, Columbus.

Our Lady of Peace Convent, Columbus.

Holy Rosary Convent, Columbus.

St. Nicholas Convent, Zanesville.

St. John the Evangelist Convent, Columbus.

St. Joseph Convent, Dover.

St. Mary Convent, Marion.

St. Mary Convent, Lancaster.

St. Mary Convent, Delaware.

St. Vincent De Paul Convent, Mt. Vernon.

St. Thomas the Apostle Convent, Columbus.

Immaculate Conception Convent, Columbus.

New High Schools From 1945-1957

Bishop Watterson—1953 (and teachers' residence)

Bishop Rosecrans, Zanesville, 1950 (merger of St. Thomas and St. Nicholas)

Bishop Hartley—1957

Notre Dame, Portsmouth—1953

Two new high schools under construction in Marion and Newark.

Tributes

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must be all of those who knew him. The community became a better place due to his efforts. My Christian love and sympathy to his friends, family and co-workers. I am deeply sorry."

Preston Wolfe, president, Dispatch Printing Co.:

"Bishop Ready's influence on Columbus and this Diocese is expressed not only in his Christian labors among his fellowmen, but in the church, school and charitable monuments erected during his tenure which will remain forever as memorials to his faith and devotion.

"His passing is the personally felt loss of countless thousands of our citizens who were associated closely with him and held him in the highest esteem for his civic contributions."

Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC, president University of Notre Dame: The priests, lay faculty, alumni, and students of Notre Dame bow in mourning at word of Bishop Ready's death. We join the faithful of the Diocese of Columbus and with his admirers everywhere in fervent, grateful remembrances, asking that he may enjoy a bounteous eternal reward for his numberless fruitful accomplishments and his exemplary, priestly life as an outstanding leader of the Church. Please accept for yourself and all of the Diocese our most affectionate, prayerful sympathy in your great loss.

Martin H. Work, executive director National Council of Catholic Men: On behalf of our officers, members and staff of the National Council of Catholic Men, I extend to you, the priests and laity of the Diocese of Columbus, our heartfelt sympathy on the death of our beloved Bishop Ready. He will be missed very much not only by the people in the Diocese but by NCCM in which he took such interest. He was a constant source of encouragement to our work in the lay apostolate. We have asked Monsignor Carroll to say a special Mass for the repose of the soul of Bishop Ready.

Archbishop Leo Binz, Dubuque, Iowa: Archbishop Rohlfman and Bishop Biskup join with me in extending heartfelt sympathy to your Excellency and to the bereaved Diocese of Columbus. Will offer Mass for Bishop Ready earliest convenience.

Mother Mary Romana, mother-general: The Sisters of Charity mourn the loss of Bishop Ready. Mass will be offered here and all the sisters join in prayer for the repose of the soul of this beloved prelate.

Father Relian, national director Holy Childhood Association: It is with sincere regret that I learned yesterday of the death of Bishop Ready. I hasten to express my deep sympathy and that of the entire membership of the Holy Childhood. His Excellency was a real friend of the Association. It's American branch cannot and never shall forget him. During the coming week I will offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the eternal repose of Bishop Ready's soul and shall recommend the same intention to the prayers of all the members and promoters of the Holy Childhood.

Mother Gonzaga: Our heartfelt sympathy to you and the priests and faithful of the Diocese of Columbus in the loss of your, and their beloved Bishop, who is gratefully remembered in the prayers of the Sisters. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered in Stella Niagara for the repose of the soul of his Excellency.

Additional messages which are to be received will be printed in the regular edition of the Catholic Times published Friday, May 10.

Discuss Church Welfare

Bishop Ready, Archbishop Karl Alter of Cincinnati and James Hollern, Executive Secretary of the Ohio Catholic Welfare Conference discussed current problems of the Church in Ohio at the last OCWC meeting earlier this year. The bishop was a constant voice for the welfare of the working class and the safeguard of the moral wellbeing of the community.

