His Excellency the Most Reverend Joseph Francis Rummel, S.T.D., is the ninth Archbishop to administer the venerable Archdiocesan See of New Orleans, the second oldest in the United States. During the thirteen years of his administration the Church has made remarkable strides in growth, in spiritual progress and in lay activities throughout Southeastern Louisiana, which comprises the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Because of His Excellency's promotion of many lay organizations to conduct a variety of religious activities, he has become known as the "Archbishop of Catholic Action."

Americans, and Louisianians especially, cherish many memories of the inspiring Eighth National Eucharistic Congress which he sponsored at New Orleans in 1938, one of the most brilliant and colorful of such Congresses ever held in the U.S., during which the assembly was honored by a radio address by the late Pontiff, Pope Pius XI, direct to the Congress. This was the second National Eucharistic Congress sponsored by His Excellency, the first having been the eminently successful congress at Omaha, Nebraska, when he was Bishop there.

During his administration in New Orleans Archdiocese, His Excellency has sponsored many brilliant functions that have attracted thousands of people at outdoor ceremonies and at the City's historic Cathedral of St. Louis, as well as at other centers. Many religious meetings, conventions and demonstrations have been held under his dynamic sponsorship and leadership.

Active Catholicity and organized faith have blossomed in the Archdiocese of New Orleans as never witnessed or experienced before. Catholic education has been systematized and standardized under His Excellency's direction, and, as a result,
Catholic schools are experiencing an exceptional growth.

His Excellency also rendered many services to the nation's war effort by his patriotic addresses, promotion of war bond sales, aid to the Red Cross and setting up centers for servicemen under the direction of the National Catholic Community Service. He is frequently called upon to address civic gatherings and to present radio addresses to the general public.

His Excellency, just before the outbreak of the war, was appointed by the late President Roosevelt to serve as a member of the President's Advisory Committee for Refugees. In addition, His Excellency served as Episcopal Chairman of the Catholic Committee for Refugees from November 1936 to December 1947.

In connection with the National Catholic Welfare Conference, His Excellency served as Episcopal Chairman of Lay Organizations from 1937 to 1940 and as Episcopal Chairman of the Legal Department from 1942 through 1947.

At the present time His Excellency is a member of the Board of Trustees of The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C; a member of the New Orleans Chapter, Board of Directors, American Red Cross; Board of Trustees, New Orleans Rye Bank; Board of Directors, Louisiana Division, American Cancer Society and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Catholic Mutual Relief Society.

Before being elevated to the episcopacy in 1928, His Excellency served as Curate in St. Joseph Church, N.Y.C., from 1903 - 1907 and as Pastor of St. Peter's Church, Kingston, N. Y., from 1907-1915; as Pastor of St. Anthony's Church, Bronx, 1914-1924 and as Pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Harlem from 1924-1928. His exceptional work as Pastor and Dean in the Archdiocese of New York brought him the honor of Papal Chamberlain with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor in 1924. His Excellency completed his studies at the North American College at Rome, where he received the degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology. He was ordained to the priesthood in the Basilica of St. John Lateran at Rome in 1902. (Appointed Bishop of Omaha in 1928 and Archbishop of New Orleans 1935).
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Coat of Arms of Most Reverend Joseph F. Rummel, S.T.D. (deceased)

The shield is divided into two parts. The half on the right side carries the arms of His Excellency, Archbishop Rummel, and the left half shows those of the Archdiocese of New Orleans (of which he was Archbishop).

The heraldic interpretation of His Excellency's arms is given thus:

The central chevron (inverted V) is the device of Baden, the place of his birth; the horn in heraldry is a symbol of sound or a maker of sound, and, in ancient Teuton, the family name carried that meaning; the Lily, superimposed on the chevron, is a symbol for Joseph, the Patron of His Excellency.

The motto is in Latin - ANIMAM PRO OVIBUS PONERE. In English it means: "TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE FOR HIS FLOCK."
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results, Catholic schools are experiencing an exceptional growth.

In the interests of youth welfare and protection, His Excellency, always keenly alive to the needs of the young people of his flock, undertook a vast program of building and expansion. Early this year, His Excellency sponsored a public campaign for $2,050,000.00 to carry out his plans. Enthusiastic response brought the campaign total beyond the $3,000,000.00 mark, an extraordinary achievement for southern United States. As a result, three new Catholic high schools, a Catholic youth center and an institute for delinquent boys will be erected, and two other existing high schools will be expanded.

In addition to all this work, many new churches and missions have been built, three new parishes and a number of religious buildings have been erected, the latter consisting of hospital additions, gymnasiums, convents and schools. His Excellency also rendered many services to the nation's war effort by his patriotic addresses, promotion of war bond sales, aid to the Red Cross and setting up centers for servicemen under direction of the National Catholic Community Service. He is frequently called upon to address civic gatherings, and to present radio addresses to the general public.

His Excellency's administration as Bishop of Omaha, from 1928 to 1935, before coming to New Orleans, was no less energetic and replete with many outstanding achievements. There also he manifested his ability as an organizer of the laity and a promoter of Catholic lay activity. His campaign for funds to expand projects of religion and charity in Omaha was a remarkable success. He brought to his See City many Catholic conventions and other assemblies and conducted there the Sixth National Eucharistic Congress. He gave great impetus to Catholic education and to Catholic lay organizations.

His Excellency, just before the outbreak of the war, was appointed by the late President Roosevelt to serve as a member of a national committee for refugees. He is a member of the executive board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and head of the Legal Department of this national conference of the American Bishops.
(previously served as head of the Department of Lay Organizations.) On many occasions, His Excellency has been chosen as speaker at noted national assemblies, including the International Scout Jamboree at Washington, and as the eulogist for the funeral of the late Cardinal Hayes.

Before being elevated to the episcopacy in 1928, His Excellency served as pastor and as dean in the Archdiocese of New York, where his exceptional work brought him the honor of Domestic Prelate from the Holy See. He completed his studies at the North American College at Rome, where he received the degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology. He was ordained to the priesthood in the Basilica of St. John Lateran at Rome in 1902.

In going to Mexico City for the Guadalupe celebration, His Excellency follows the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor, the late Most Reverend Francis Janssens, fifth Archbishop of New Orleans, who attended the coronation ceremonies in 1895, the same year that America’s only other miraculous image was crowned by that prelate at New Orleans, the statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor.