Bishop Robert Emmet Lucey

Second Bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo

Although the diocese was still in its infancy, Catholics here had begun to feel a sense of pride in the already visible accomplishments. All shared happiness and joy in the elevation of their first bishop who had now been chosen for wider fields of service. And now there was pleasant anticipation as the installation of the second bishop of the See of Amarillo, Robert E. Lucey, was being awaited.

The pews of Sacred Heart Cathedral filled rapidly. Ahead, near the front, were a number of nuns representing various communities that were now working in the diocese. A hushed air of expectancy, of interest, held the audience. Archbishop Drossaerts of San Antonio who was to install the new bishop led the procession of the clergy into the church and down the center aisle. He was accompanied by several bishops.

The priests of the diocese, including the fourteen additional ones who had come to Amarillo since the erection of the diocese, followed. It was a distinctive group. As the services progressed, the well-trained choir added a triumphant note to the ceremony being enacted. It was an atmosphere of progress, solemnity, and splendor as Bishop Lucey was
installed shepherd of the faithful in the Amarillo diocese. This was in May, 1934. Father Robert E. Lucey was pastor of St. Anthony’s parish, Long Beach, California when he was appointed bishop. He was consecrated in the Cathedral in Los Angeles May 1, 1934. He arrived in Amarillo May 15 bringing with him his frail Irish mother and his gracious sister, May. These two remained a part of his household until each departed this earthly life.

Bishop Lucey chose for his motto: “The Lord is our King”. If it could be said of Bishop Gerken that he was a ‘builder of churches’ then it may be said of Bishop Lucey that he ‘launched us into Catholic action’. Although great material expansion was not possible during this drought period, a great development took place in corporate spiritual life. Bishop Lucey came to a field where the Catholics were for the most part unorganized and isolated by long distances, forming only five percent of the total population. He left his people united by means of active diocesan organizations, and consciously entering into that movement of life with which the Church is meeting the problems of the age. While bringing about this development within the diocese, he became a leader of Catholic Action in the national field, recognized as a student of industrial and social relationships, as a champion of organized labor and as a leader of lay action within the Church. He was in demand as a speaker and as an interpreter of the mind of the Church on social questions, and without losing touch at all with conditions in his diocese, he was frequently absent on speaking engagements or in participation in movements of Catholic social action.

Those who were acquainted with affairs in the diocese knew, also, that the Bishop frequently spoke or preached or gave retreats away from home in order to “earn a few shekels”, as he expressed it, to relieve the critical financial condition that accompanied his episcopacy from beginning to end.

The new bishop felt keenly the strained financial condition in diocesan affairs during this first year. The people were generous, as far as their circumstances permitted, but the country was suffering drought in addition to the depression. In July, Bishop Lucey wrote to Bishop O’Brien of the Extension Society, asking if the diocese might have the thousand dollars that was the second half of its yearly appropriation for the support of students for the priesthood. The Panhandle was having its worst drought in thirty years, he reported. Crops were withering and cattle were dying in the fields. Nine of the cattle on the Price College farm had been shot by the Federal Government because of their poor physical condition. Nevertheless, the Extension Society, because of lowered revenues, was forced to cut in half the money usually sent to the diocese for seminarian support. The American Board of Catholic Missions, which at the erection of the diocese had been able to allocate to it ten thousand dollars yearly, was this year able to give it only three thousand one hundred fifty dollars.

Although the economic distress was general, the segment of the flock which felt it most keenly was the Mexican people, for the most part unemployed and with no resources except government help or private charity. Bishop Lucey, experienced as he was in social work, set about giving these people a more adequate
cooperated with governmental agencies, including the NYA, TRC, and WPA, in carrying out their programs. An annual banquet at the close of each fiscal year brought together the friends of the project. At this banquet the reports of the year’s work were made, and the contribution of the Catholic Welfare Bureau to the life of the city was brought into prominence. In succeeding years the allocation to the Bureau from the Community Chest ranged in neighborhood of five to six thousand dollars. The diocese at times added to this sum, in order to keep up the level of attainment that had become associated with the Catholic Welfare Bureau.

In the spring of 1935 the Bishop took the initial steps in the development of the program of lay organizations that was to become an outstanding feature of his episcopacy. The Rev. A. E. Robinson was appointed rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral and dioecesan director of Catholic Action. It was to be his duty to organize the D.C.C.M. and the DCCW.

In 1935 the first study clubs were put in operation, and the program of lay action inaugurated was carried out over the period of the next five years.

In the summer of 1935 a constitutional amendment was proposed in Texas to permit the distribution of free textbooks to pupils of private and parochial schools. Bishop Lucey campaigned vigorously for the passage of this amendment, and while it was lost in the state by a small margin, it was not defeated in the territory of the Diocese of Amarillo.

For many years there had been need of another church in Lubbock, a city which was growing rapidly as the center of the South Plains area. The small group of American Catholics there had purchased a site, but would not be able to finance the building of a suitable church for many years to come. Their need was met through the generosity of Countess Katherine Price, who, with her sister, Mrs. Mary Sullivan of St. Louis, made possible the erection of St. Elizabeth’s Church in memory of their mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Flynn. The church, erected under the direction of Rev. Gabriel Diamante, SA, was dedicated March 29, 1936. In that month Bishop Lucey received from Rome the Official document by which Pope Pius XI conferred upon Mrs. Katherine E. Price the title of Papal Countess, in recognition of her benefactions to the Church, and the ceremony of investiture was held in Amarillo, the city which had been the recipient of so much of her generosity.

In 1936 the State of Texas celebrated the centennial measure of relief. In a radio speech in November in support of the Community Chest in Amarillo, he encouraged the citizens to be generous to the Chest, saying that its budget was too small for so large and fine a city. The Community Chest appropriation for the work of the Catholic Charities for 1935 was three thousand dollars. The funds had been dispensed up to that time by Father C. Gutierrez, CM., pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. The Bishop, prevailing upon the Community Chest and the Board of Trustees of the Catholic Charities to provide additional funds, secured a trained social worker, Miss Rosa Fortune, to conduct the relief program, and on March 1, 1935, the Catholic Welfare Bureau was incorporated, with a board of twenty-one members appointed by the Bishop. Offices were secured not far from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, at 1321 East Tenth Avenue. A program of relief and rehabilitation was developed that included various services to families, sewing and cooking classes, recreational work for youth, a baby clinic, a tuberculosis clinic, and later a dental clinic. The clinics were made possible through the generous donation of time on the part of members of the medical and nursing profession of Amarillo. The Bureau
of its independence from Mexico. This event was commemorated by all of the dioceses in Texas, all of which have a rich share in the history of the state. In the Diocese of Amarillo a Pontifical Field Mass was celebrated on the grounds of St. Mary’s Academy on May 10, commemorating Father Juan de Padilla, the proto-martyr of the United States, and the martyrs of Texas. Bishop Lucey was the Celebrant of the Mass.

On July 5, 1936, appeared the first issue of THE REGISTER, TEXAS PANHANDLE EDITION, with Rev. Thomas J. Drury as managing editor. It carried the Bishop’s pastoral letter on the need for the Catholic Press, and urged the faithful to support their new diocesan weekly paper.

The first issue of the Register also carried the announcement of the organization of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in the Diocese. Miss Miriam Marks, field secretary of the national office of the Confraternity in Washington, conferred with leaders from various parishes, advising them concerning the activities of the Confraternity and assisting in its organization. Rev. Thomas J. Drury, appointed diocesan director of the Confraternity, made tour of the parishes, consulting with pastors on the organization of study clubs and vacation schools. Before the end of the summer these activities had been set up in the greater number of the parishes, and movement gained momentum as time passed. The work of the study clubs, or religious discussion clubs as they came to be called, was organized into spring and fall terms, a text book was chosen for the diocese, and weekly lesson outlines appeared in the Register. In the summer of 1937 the director, Father Drury, made a two thousand mile trip through the diocese visiting the religious vacation schools, finding progress in almost every parish and mission. In many instances, members of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine formed a motor corps to bring the children to the vacation schools, and where the services of religious could not be secured, gave the instruction in the schools. The Confraternity also assumed some responsibility for seeing that religious instruction was given to Catholic children who were in attendance at public schools, and encouraged the retreat moment and convert work.

Another phase of Catholic Action, that of sodality work, was being given attention at this time. In the early summer a meeting was held in Amarillo, attended by delegates from the sodalities of Hereford, Pampa, Umbarger and St. Francis. Five sodalist from Hereford went to St. Louis for the meeting of the National Sodality Union.

In August, 1936, Bishop Lucey issued a pastoral letter stating that a Diocesan Council of Catholic Women would be organized in the diocese in September, preceding the meeting of the National Council of Catholic Women in Galveston in October. In the following weeks the Bishop met with groups of women in the various parishes, explaining the nature and purposes of the organization, and in September the field secretary of the NCCW, Miss Lenna Wilson, came to the diocese to assist in the organizational work. The diocese was divided into the four districts of Amarillo, Lubbock, Big Spring and San Angelo. Thereafter district meetings were held every spring and fall, with one annual convention for the entire diocese. Mrs. J. J. Lane of Amarillo served as first diocesan president. It was the Bishop’s wish that the Diocesan Council would unite the various organized groups of women in the parishes in a fuller appreciation of their Faith and in an endeavor to make the mind of Christ known in the world. The activities of the Council includes youth programs, social welfare, cooperation with the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in conducting religious discussion clubs, religious vacation schools and in supplying religious instruction in parishes having no parochial schools, participation in the campaigns against indecent films and immoral literature, and other projects of interest to the Church. The Diocesan Council grew rapidly in membership and influence. The Bishop and Father T. J. Drury, diocesan director of Catholic Action, were always present at the district meetings and the annual convention to encourage and guide.

The picture above shows part of the group of women who attended the first laywomen’s retreat to be held in the Diocese of Amarillo, June 13 to 17. With the women are pictured the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, who gave the hospitality of St. Mary’s Academy to the retreatants, and the Rev. Andrew Henze, O.F.M., the retreat-master. (Edward’s photo, Amarillo.)
On May 2, the cornerstone was laid for the new Cathedral Hall in Amarillo. Bishop Lucey officiated, and was the recipient on this occasion of a silver trowel, presented to him by the Bricklayers’ Union of Amarillo in appreciation of this work as a friend of organized labor. The next month the Bishop was unanimously elected an honorary life member of the Amarillo Central Labor Council. He had consistently defended the rights of organized labor, and in the building operations of the diocese he had followed of Amarillo in his episcopacy carried the clause that union labor should be employed in all the crafts and trades organized in the community in question, and the prevailing wage scale of the jurisdiction was made a part of the specifications.

As the dry years continued, financial conditions in the diocese remained critical. The Bishop was grateful to the Extension Society for the gift of a Pontiac in 1937 to replace the car which was causing him great expense in repairs.

The Bishop gave a retreat and a series of sermons in Iowa to bring in a little money and went to the East and to Chicago to ask for help for the diocese. In the summers of 1937 and 1938 he acted as professor in the summer schools of Catholic Action sponsored for the clergy by the hierarchy. He was becoming widely known as a speaker on social and industrial problems. Upon the organization in the diocese of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, the desire seemed general for a lay women’s retreat, and accordingly, in June, 1937, the first retreat in the diocese for lay women was held at St. Mary's Academy, Amarillo. Thereafter, lay women's retreats were held annually, sponsored by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. The expansion of lay organizations continued in the diocese. On
On June 13, 1937, the interest of West Texas was turned to its religious past, when a monument was erected in Elwood Park, Amarillo, in memory of Fray Juan de Padilla, the first Christian martyr in the territory of the United States. The memorial was erected by the Texas Centennial Commission and the Texas Knights of Columbus. Bishop Lucey officiated at the dedication. Fray Juan de Padilla crossed the Texas Panhandle with the Coronado expedition and was killed by the Indians in 1544.

In the early part of 1938, a series of open-air missions was conducted in the towns of Panhandle by two priests from the Diocese of Springfield, Ill., Rev. David L. Scully and Rev. Fred Klasner. In Canyon the mission was so successful that the missionaries expressed the hope that the church, St. Ann’s which had been closed for three years because of the shortage of priests in the diocese and the small number of Catholics in the town, might reopened soon. Services were resumed in St. Ann’s Church on April 3, 1938. In May and June the motor mission series was continued by two Vincentian priests from St. Louis.

1938 was the sixth successive year of drought in the diocese, with economic conditions reflected in diocesan affairs. The Amarillo diocese had received over ten percent of the Extension Society’s emergency fund that was intended to supply thirty dioceses.

The Christian Brothers of the St. Louis Province were obtained to take charge of instruction at Price College in the fall of 1938. Brother I. Francis became the first Director. This change was a boom for the diocese, for it not only insured a permanent corps of trained instructors for the College, but it also released for full-time parish duty a number of priests who had been occupied on week days with teaching at the College.

Diocesan Catholic Action groups inaugurated a series of radio programs for youth in the spring of 1938. The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in April launched a campaign against obscene literature being sold at various newsstands, and were successful to a considerable degree. The next year, following the report of the Episcopal committee on the National Organization for Decent Literature, Bishop Lucey extended the drive to every parish, asking for permanent committees to be set up, whose duty it would be to see that indecent literature was kept off the newsstands, and requesting that the cooperation of civil and religious groups be enlisted in the work.

In June, 1938, a number of the Catholic people of Amarillo participated in a pageant entitled “Old
Southwest Days,” staged in connection with the dedication of the Will Rogers Highway. The first scenes were taken from the early Catholic history of the Southwest, and the episode produced by the Catholics of Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes elicited the praise of all groups.

A brick gymnasium and auditorium building was added to the campus of Price College in the fall of 1939, through the generosity of Countess Katherine Price, who contributed $25,000 for the project. The dedication of the building was held Oct. 29, just ten years after the dedication of the first building. Present at the ceremonies were Countess Price, Archbishop Gerken, founder of the original college, and also a number of the civic leaders of Amarillo.

At the close of the year Bishop Lucey published in the Register an account of the benefactions of the Extension Society to the Diocese of Amarillo during 1939. The sum was close to $10,000. The Bishop urged his people to give their support to the Extension Magazine, the organ of this society which had proved of such benefit to the diocese.

On Jan. 15, 1939, at a visit to Holy Souls' Parish, Pampa, Bishop Lucey spoke over radio station KDPN of Pampa on international relations, urging support of the peace program of Pope Benedict XV.

On November 12, a Fourth Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus was organized in Amarillo, named for Father David H. Dunn, the first resident pastor of Amarillo and leading pioneer priest of the Panhandle. The assembly was known officially as Father Dunn Assembly No. 1450. Most Reverend Bishop Lucey was among the members. M. J. Kelly of Amarillo was chosen faithful navigator.

When the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday, 1939, a group of thirty-seven converts, members of the convert and inquiry class at the Cathedral, were among those confirmed. Rev. Louis P. Senesac, CSV was moderator of the Converts’ League of Amarillo. Father Senesac was also
Interest of the Bishop in matters of liturgical propriety brought Maurice Lavanaux, of the Liturgical Arts Society, to Amarillo for a lecture in Cathedral Hall. He visited a number of the churches of the area which had been built or redecorated under the leadership of the Bishop.

A notable event in the history of the diocese was the establishment of its first mission for Negroes in November, 1940. Rev. James J. Regan, O.P. celebrated the first Mass in Blessed Martin de Porres Mission, established in a rented room at 410 W. Third Street, Amarillo, on the Feast of All Saints, with one Negro present. In July of the following year a building was purchased at a cost of $5000 at 1511 N. Adams, in the North Heights Negro section of Amarillo, and was remodeled to serve as a welfare center.

Bishop Lucey addressed the American Federation of Labor's Southwest Conference held in Dallas in May. The Bishop was given a prolonged ovation by the delegates, such is seldom seen, a testimonial to the leadership he had acquired in the field of labor relations. In September the Bishop addressed a city-wide meeting of organized labor in Amarillo, where his speech was broadcast over KFDA.

Spread of the war in Europe touched the life of the diocese. For several years Catholic Action groups had discussed the field of international relations and means of peace. The charity of Catholics was challenged in June, when the Bishop asked for a collection throughout the diocese for the Polish war refugees and in the fall he appealed to the people through a pastoral letter to heed the papal plea for prayer on November 24, a day set for this.

The Paulist Fathers began a series

chaplain of the Catholic Daughters of America, Court 474, of Amarillo. That body initiated twenty-five new members on May 28. Fifteen of this new group were members of the Converts’ League. The mounting interest in the diocesan program of Catholic Action was evidenced in the large attendance at the fall district meetings of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in 1939, when hundreds of women assembled for these meetings at Borger, Plainview, Sweetwater, and San Angelo, and for the diocesan convention at Lubbock. Principal topics of discussion were peace and anti-Semitism. Bishop Lucey expressed his satisfaction with the growth of the Diocesan Council during the three years of its existence.

The Bishop of Amarillo was recognized throughout the nation as a leader in Catholic social action. In April he addressed the schools of social work and social service in Washington on “Social Work Education in Catholic Action,” and in June he spoke at the international relations forum of the Catholic Social Action Congress in Cleveland.
of trailer missions, for non-Catholics and Catholics, in the summer of 1940. The series opened at Lubbock in August, where they established their headquarters, and where the Paulists took charge of St. Elizabeth's Church.

Organization of the men of the diocese was accomplished when the Holy Name Society was instituted throughout the diocese. During the first fifteen days of the month, the Bishop, accompanied by Rev. William R. Lawler, CP, made a tour of the parishes, establishing twenty-five centers with seven hundred eighty-eight members.

The fourth annual convention of the DCCW in Amarillo was one of the most successful in its history, reporting a great increase in activities in the four districts. Six thousand children were under religious instruction throughout the year. One hundred twenty-five religious discussion clubs functioned with one thousand six hundred sixty-six members. Vacation schools were held in every parish and mission where a parochial school was not established. Parent-teacher groups, youth work and committees on libraries and literature were flourishing.

On December 10, in Nazareth, the Knights of Columbus held a Communion breakfast, inviting all members of the 13th district. Bishop Lucey spoke on this occasion on the need for Catholic Action. Faith and sanctification of self were no longer sufficient, he said. We must study, discuss and imbibe the truths of faith, and then carry them to our neighbors.

In October, 1940, construction was begun on a chapel in Gothic style for Price college, donated by countess Price in Memory of her husband, Lucien Price, and named St. Lucien's Chapel.

The Bishop reported to Bishop O'Brien in November that his diocese was “triumhantly ending eight years of drought.” The Bishop sold the Price college farm, which had not been able to produce a crop for him. The American Board of Catholic Missions promised $6000 to the diocese for the next year, the highest amount allotted to any mission diocese.

In the fall of this year occurred the peculiar ice storm which broke the trees and the telephone and electric wire lines of the Amarillo area. It was to be the last of the idiosyncracies of weather that Bishop Lucey reported to his friend and benefactor of the Extension Society, for it broke the long drought that had lasted through the Bishop's episcopacy, and presaged the more prosperous years that he was not to be present to witness.

News reached Amarillo on January 23, 1941, of the appointment of Bishop Reobert E. Lucey as second Archbishop of San Antonio, to fill the see left vacant by the death of Archbishop Arthur Jerome Drosserts. Installation of the new Archbishop was set for March 27.

Gains and losses seem to comprise the annual report of this missionary diocese. Upon second thought it occurs to us that gains and losses are the story of human life. Out here in the dust bowl of the Texas Panhandle we have made some progress in the midst of misfortune. In order that this romance of the missions may have a happy ending let us start with the losses.

We are now enjoying our sixth year of drought. Once more our wheat crop has been ruined by long continued dry weather. This year, however, is different from the five previous seasons. Usually the wheat comes up and then dies. This year it didn't even come up. One wonders how these people out here can continue to live. Many of them are in debt and it may be a long time before they get out of it. At the present they will never recover. As a banker would say: their income chart shows a steady downward trend. A farmer can stand a bad crop once in awhile but six consecutive years is a long time to wait for rain.

On the other hand, every cloud has a silver lining. This year a horde of grasshoppers moved in on us and if they had found any wheat around here they would surely have devoured it. So we were really lucky not to have crop that they could destroy. The government is spending thousands of dollars to spread arsenic mash all over the Panhandle to combat the plague of grasshoppers. We are told that this is the worst pest that this region has ever suffered. The hoppers, however, have had special training in dietetics and they wont touch the poison. Many horses and cattle, not being so meticulous, have tried the mash and died on the spot.

Since we have no wheat to offer the grasshoppers have invaded our trees, lawns, shrubs, hedges and flower gardens. They are really not particular; they will eat anything but arsenic. Around the Bishop's residence on the campus of Price College the hoppers are having a truly wonderful time. My garage is still standing but I notice that the door is beginning to look a bit weak.

Some of these insects do not hop; they fly. When they are at rest they appear to be grasshoppers, but when in motion they spread wings which are colored and shaped like those of a butterfly. They are evidently a variant of some kind with the body of a grasshopper, the wings of a butterfly and the appetite of a horse.

At the end of his episcopacy of the Diocese of Amarillo, Bishop Lucey wrote the required report to Rome. Following is his report on the priests of the Diocese.

The Amarillo Clergy

In a new diocese in the Southwest it would be expected that the clergy would be too few and somewhat inferior. Priests come to these regions who are not accepted in their own diocese. Standards of learning, eloquence and zeal are mediocre among the seculars. The Religious Provincials do not ordinarily send their best men to thinly populated areas.

Of 27 priests who are secular and belong to the diocese one is over 80 years of age, two are queer, three are of very limited intelligence, two are
mental cases, one has tuberculosis in both lungs, one is incapacitated by arthritis, two are drunkards, one is pratically feebleminded and is absent without leave, one is completing a three year course in Canon Law at the Catholic Uniersity this June and one is vicious (O’Brien). These total 15 priests. The other 12, with 3 or 4 exceptions, are quite mediocre but are doing fairly well.

Look at all the glorious space in the new museum. Wouldn't it be lovely to have a display case or room sporting an “in memory of or in honor of” plaque with you, or your family and loved one's name engraved upon it?

Here I am again… humbly begging… We can only do this with your help...

$2000 donation will purchase a display case.
$5000 donation will purchase a mannequin display case.
$5000 donation will purchase a reception counter.
$10,000 donation will establish the Bishop’s Room where our 7 previous bishops’ episcopate will be housed.
$10,000 donation will establish the Fr. Dunn and Sacred Heart Cathedral Room.

Every $5 donated helps!
The Catholic Historical Society commissioned Joshua Sorenson to paint the 3 Amarillo Diocesan Cathedrals and St. Lucien’s Chapel.

Pictured here is Joshua’s outstanding work. The CHS has had 25 prints of each painting made. These will be numbered and signed by the artist. They are 16 X 24 and perfect for framing. They are very limited and available for purchase.

The cost of each print is $75.

- I would like to order a print(s).
- St. Lucien’s Chapel
- Sacred Heart Cathedral
- St. Laurence Cathedral
- St. Mary’s Cathedral
- I have enclosed $75 for each print ordered with $5 s/h.
- Name:
- Address:
- Send to:
  Catholic Historical Society
  P O Box 5644
  Amarillo, Texas 79117-5644
  or use the enclosed envelope.

Prints may also be picked up at the Pastoral Center.
Cookbooks containing the recipes of Bishop Zurek and our Diocesan Priests are still available and on sale.

1. I would like to order a cookbook at $7.50 each.
2. ____ cookbook(s). I have enclosed $7.50 for each cookbook with $2 s/h.

Name:

Address:

Send to:
Catholic Historical Society
P. O. Box 5644
Amarillo, TX 79117-5644

Or use the enclosed envelope.

Cookbooks may also be picked up at the Pastoral Center.
The Diocese of Amarillo officially had no bishop from June 1933 until February, 1934. The whole area was rapidly becoming a dust bowl, and rumor floated about that nobody wanted to become bishop of Amarillo.

However, Msgr. J. F. Pokluda, administrator of the diocese, finally received word that Rev. Robert Emmet Lucey had been named bishop of Amarillo.

When Lucey decided to become a priest his superiors recognized him as a man of great intelligence and sent him to North American College in Rome.

Lucey was a man ahead of his time. He took a keen interest in the lofty ideals of the encyclicals of Popes Leo XIII and Pius XI. He became a supporter of organized labor and a champion of social justice long before it was the popular thing to do.

The new bishop was quite different from his predecessor Bishop Gerken. Gerken was a friendly man of rural origins whereas Lucey was a big city pastor, an organizer and an intellectual: he was aloof by nature, liberal by persuasion and efficient by practice.

Lucey hit the diocese like a bombshell. He was a man who had a clear idea of what he wanted to do. He made great demands on himself and demanded excellence of his priests.

At first some of the clergy and laity had difficulty accepting him. He could be quite stern at times. When one of the younger priests crossed the bishop, he found himself transferred to the missions of Ozona, Sonora and El Dorado.

Bishop Lucey was a beehive of activity. He even entertained the
future Pope Pius XII, then Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, who on Oct. 29, 1936 happened to come to Amarillo on his way west.

The above light fixture and four others identical to it were the original lights for St. Lucien’s Chapel. When the Capucin Sisters were using the Chapel for Mass they found the amber glassed fixtures just did not provide enough light. The fixtures were changed out and the originals were stored in the museum. Now the lights have been refurbished and they hang in the almost completed chapel of the new Pastoral Center.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

**MUSEUM BUILDING FUND**

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Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
Next newsletter: The Third Bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo
Most Rev. Laurence J. FitzSimon