

Bishop Hickey's Biography

Most Rev. Dennis W. Hickey, educated in a secular university, Colgate, and a Rochester pastor for less than seven of the 27 years of his priesthood, was the first major appointee of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen when he became Rochester's sixth bishop.

Then Monsignor Hickey, he was appointed vicar general of the diocese on Jan. 27, 1967, following democratic balloting of the nearly 400 diocesan priests. Bishop Sheen, who polled the priests to learn whom they regarded as their leaders, publicly acknowledged when he named him vicar-general.

"The overwhelming favorite of the priests happily corresponded with my own judgment, for he was one of the first priests I visited when I came to the diocese."

Born in Dansville, N.Y., Oct. 28, 1914, son of Walter M. Hickey and Aloysia Sullivan Hickey, Bishop Hickey attended St. Patrick's parochial school and Dansville High School.

As a teenager in Dansville he considered the Rochester seminaries and pondered a vocation, probably because he had two priest-uncles in the family. But he chose Colgate University, at Hamilton, N.Y., precisely because the priest-uncles were Colgate graduates and his parents knew the school. He majored in history and gov-

ernment and earned his B.A. at graduation in 1937.

"I had many fine Catholic associates at Colgate," he recalled last week. "Father Shapley was the pastor in



Bishop Hickey

Hamilton and although our college Newman Club program was insignificant, he helped steer me and probably was an influence in my entering St. Bernard's."

A strong recollection of St. Bernard's Seminary, he recalled this week, was the curriculum of the four post-graduate years of theology: "Seminary studies required much more work than I had known at Colgate."

Ordained at Sacred Heart Cathedral on June 7, 1941, by Bishop James E. Kearney in a class of 12 priests for the Rochester diocese, Bishop Hickey was assigned to St. Mary's Church in Auburn. Five years under Rt. Rev. Msgr. William E. Cowen were richly formative for the tall, slim, shy and soft-spoken new priest. He praised his first pastor:

"Dr. Cowen was way ahead of his times in ecumenism, emphasis on congregational participation in liturgy and clerical sharing of community affairs. He drove his assistants with real pastoral zeal but he taught me to do many new things simply by sending me out to do them."

Marriage Court Secretary

In November, 1946, Bishop Hickey was appointed secretary of the diocesan Marriage Tribunal at the Rochester chancery office. For 15 years, from 9 to 5, five days a week, he handled

details of interviewing several thousand of men and women with marriage troubles and arranged scores of trials in the diocesan court.

"It was a case of learning by doing," he recalled this week. "For the first five years I lived at St. Bernard's and Monsignor Craugh (Rt. Rev. Msgr. Wilfred T. Craugh, rector of the Seminary) taught me a great deal in helping me with the cases."

Bishop John E. McCafferty, consecrated with him today, was Bishop Hickey's associate and superior in the Marriage Tribunal from 1951 to 1961, when Bishop McCafferty was presiding judge (officials) of the same court.

Remembering the drudgery of listening to the marital tribulations of unhappy husbands and wives who were his "parish" for 15 years, Bishop Hickey said: "The majority of the cases concerned the validity of the marriage: could the wedding vows be declared invalid and the marriage ties broken? The work offered me consolation only rarely because so often we had to tell the petitioners: 'No hope.' But it was wonderful and worthwhile when you could find a solution and give them freedom from unhappiness and a return to the Sacraments, or sometimes even bring estranged people back together again."

During the interval from '51 to '61
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Bishop McCafferty's Biography

Most Rev. John E. McCafferty, who has spent 20 years of his priesthood in diocesan affairs and less than three as a pastor, makes history for Holy Rosary parish as well as for the diocese by his consecration this week.

He is the second pastor of Holy Rosary Church in Rochester to be advanced to the dignity of Bishop within thirty years. The Most Rev. Walter A. Foery, Bishop of Syracuse, was pastor of Holy Rosary from June 16, 1932, until his consecration as Bishop on August 18, 1937 in Rochester, at the former St. Patrick's Cathedral, on Plymouth Avenue North.

Born in New York City, January 6, 1920, son of Joseph P. McCafferty and Mary Cavanagh McCafferty, the new Auxiliary of Rochester lived in New York until he was thirteen years old.

His father was employed by the New York Central Railroad and the family moved to Geneva when Mr. McCafferty was appointed division freight agent in the Geneva area in 1933.

Educated in De Sales High School, Geneva, the future Bishop probably found part of his vocation there in a friendship which he had with the late Archbishop Thomas F. Hickey.

"I remember serving Archbishop Hickey's Mass in St. Stephen's Church every morning all through my high school years," Bishop McCafferty said

this week. "He was retired then, and lived quietly in our parish rectory. But he kept busy and useful by coming into the school every afternoon to teach religion."

Bishop McCafferty later studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries in Rochester.

World War II erupted during the later years of Bishop McCafferty's theological studies. The Seminary began to accelerate its curriculum by keeping the students at their books during the summer months. The Bishop's class became the first to be ordained after the speed-up was inaugurated to fill diocesan ranks thinned out by departure of many priests as chaplains.

Ordained by the Most Rev. James E. Kearney in Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral on March 17, 1945, Bishop McCafferty will have the happiness of marking his 23rd anniversary of ordination this Sunday by the celebration of his first Pontifical Mass with his parishioners at Holy Rosary.

After a brief 18 months in parish work as assistant at St. Mary's Canandaigua and Immaculate Conception in Rochester, Bishop McCafferty was sent off to study Canon Law for three years at the Catholic University of America. When he returned in 1949 with his Doctorate he was assigned as Director of the Family and Child Care Division of the Rochester Catholic Charities.

In 1951 he was appointed Officialis or presiding judge of the Matrimonial Tribunal of the diocese. For the next 15 years he worked on marriage cases, hearing testimony, composing appeals,

settling conflicts. Meanwhile he lived in the Columbus Civic Center and was weekend assistant at St. Mary's Church in Rochester.

During this long period future Bishops McCafferty and Hickey worked as partners for Bishop Hickey was the secretary of the Tribunal from '51 to '61.

"My strongest recollections of that responsible service," Bishop McCafferty said this week, "was that the major number of cases involved situations where pre-marriage 'mental incapacity' to contract vows was a contention of those seeking annulments. We also saw an increasing number of cases where the petitioners asked the Church's permission to seek civil divorce."

In 1965, on the swelling spirit of the Vatican Council, Bishop Kearney named Bishop McCafferty chairman of the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission. In that capacity he has been a busy participant in inter-faith activities and a consultant with Protestant and Jewish leaders in the community.

Discussing ecumenism in Rochester, Bishop McCafferty said: "The program has done a great deal to open doors between personalities in our many church groups. I treasure the fine associations I have been able to make with clergy and persons in professional

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Bishop McCafferty

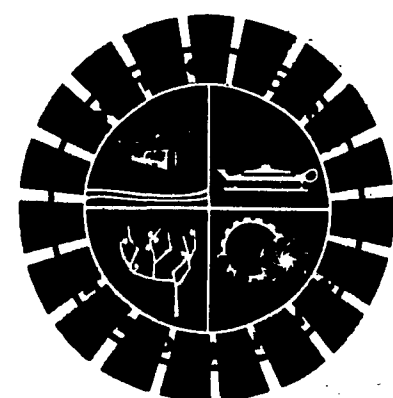
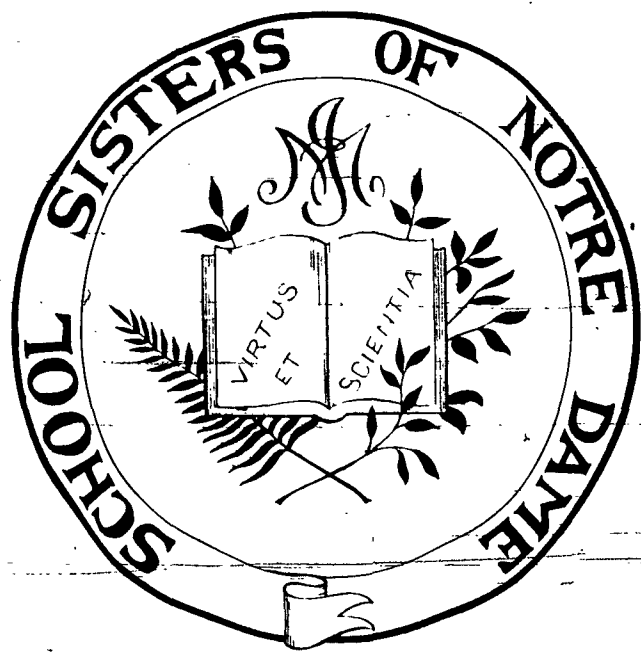
Greetings

And A Sincere and Prayerful

Hope For A Long,

Spiritual Career as

SHEPHERDS OF SOULS



The
COUNTY OF MONROE

extends

Best Wishes

to

The New Auxiliary Bishops

KENNETH P. COURTNEY
President, County Legislature

GORDON A. HOWE
County Manager

CHALLENGING TIMES

GREAT MEN WITH GREAT THOUGHTS ARE NEEDED

WITH YOU OUR TWO CHOSEN PRELATES

GOD'S CAUSE WON'T GO UNHEEDED

THE GREECE PASTORS' ASSOCIATION
REPRESENTING ALL THE CHURCHES OF GREECE