



THE MEN OF AQUINAS  
ALUMNI, FACULTY AND STUDENTS  
JOIN IN SINCERE & PRAYERFUL  
CONGRATULATIONS TO  
BISHOP DENNIS W. HICKEY  
and  
BISHOP JOHN B. McCAFFERTY  
ON THIS DAY OF CONSECRATION  
AS AUXILIARY BISHOPS OF  
THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

*"Grant them, O Lord, Thy strength and  
protection — For Thou canst do all  
things and there is no one who  
may oppose Thee." — St. Basil*

**Aquinas Institute**

CONDUCTED BY THE BASILIAN FATHERS  
1925 1968

God Bless  
and Keep You  
For Many Years  
To Come  
ST. MICHAEL'S  
and  
ST. ANDREW'S  
PARISHES

Penn Yan

Dundee

## A Bishop's Consecration: Step by Step

An episcopal consecration is one of the most splendid ceremonies in the Catholic Church.

The magnificence of the occasion reflects the importance the Church attaches to the elevation of another successor of the Apostles.

The bishop's consecration follows his priestly dedication to the service of God at ordination. The power to ordain other priests is conferred at consecration.

The role of consecrator is reserved to the Pope but he usually delegates it to a bishop. Two other bishops assist as co-consecrators.

In a procession preceding the ceremony, churchmen's robes of different colors signify ecclesiastical rank, purple for bishops as well as for monsignors. Other secular clergy wear black with white surplice; religious clergy wear the color of their order.

The consecration consists of reading the apostolic letter, preliminary examination, the consecration itself, and investiture with external signs of office.

In the sanctuary the senior co-consecrator presents the bishop-elect to the consecrator, while the apostolic commission is read.

The bishop-elect is questioned concerning conduct of the office and teachings he is to expound, and whether he

will be "affable and merciful to the poor and to pilgrims and all those in need."

The consecrators and the bishop-elect and the concelebrants begin the Mass. After the Gradual, the consecrator goes to the faldstool before the altar where the bishop-elect is presented, to hear the duties and powers: "A bishop judges, interprets, offers, baptizes and confirms."

The consecrator asks the clergy and faithful to pray for the bishop-elect who, while the litany of the saints is chanted, lies prostrate on the sanctuary floor. Then the consecrator opens the book of the gospels and lays it on the shoulders of the kneeling bishop-elect, and on his head the consecrator imposes hands with the words: "Receive ye the Holy Spirit."

### Anointing

While the hymn, "Veni Creator Spiritus" (Come, Holy Spirit, Creator) is sung, the consecrator anoints with holy oil the head of the new bishop. This symbolizes the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The consecrator anoints the hands to indicate powers conferred; the joined hands are placed in a linen cloth suspended from the new bishop's neck.

The consecrator presents the bishop with objects of office: crozier or pastoral staff, dramatizing his spiritual flock; ring symbolic of espousal to the church, and the book of gospels, along with the command to proclaim the word of God.

The bishop receives the kiss of peace from the consecrator and co-consecrators. He is escorted to the altar and his head and hands are cleaned. The Mass is resumed with gospel, creed and offertory. The sermon is delivered between gospel and creed.

During the offertory the bishop is led to the throne where the kneeling consecrator offers two loaves of bread and two small wine casks, in token of an ancient custom of such offerings by the Catholic laity for support of the clergy and maintenance of worship.

Mass is resumed at the altar, all concelebrants partaking of the communion host and chalice. In final blessing, the kneeling bishop receives his mitre from the consecrator who has blessed it as a "helmet of defense and salvation" making the bishop "formidable to the opponents of truth."

The consecrator blesses gloves and puts them on the newly consecrated hands, after removing the episcopal ring which he restores over the gloved finger.

The choir intones a hymn of thanksgiving, while the bishop proceeds with his assistants through the church, blessing the faithful. Moving to the epistle side, he faces the consecrator and both assistants on the other side of the altar, genuflects and chants: "Ad multos annos (for many years)." Each time in a higher voice, he repeats this chant, first from mid-altar and again as he approaches the consecrator.

From the consecrator and the co-consecrators, the bishop receives a kiss of peace. From the altar, crozier in hand, he gives final blessing, and all prepare for the recessional.

### A Helpful Perspective

There are no new things; there are only some old things happening to new people. When one is convinced of an absolutely new idea, one should go back to see how Aristotle put it.

The same is true with the present anti-clerical mood, which loves to protest against the "institutional Church." A fascinating parallel can be made between modern books on this subject and the "eternal Gospel" of Joachim of Fiore who was born about 1135 and died in 1201 or 1202; the transformation of the sacraments, the charismatic church instead of the institutional church and so forth.

Prayers from  
the people of  
St. Thomas More Parish  
Rochester, New York

The Prayers  
of the  
Entire Congregation  
of  
ST. ANN'S  
HORNELL, N. Y.  
Express the joy that is in  
Our Hearts

To  
Bishop Hickey and Bishop McCafferty  
Prayers and Best Wishes  
will follow you  
Through the Years  
from  
The Parishes of Wayne County

ST. MICHAEL, LYONS ST. MICHAEL, NEWARK  
ST. ANNE, PALMYRA ST. PATRICK, MACEDON  
EPIPHANY, SODUS ST. GREGORY, MARION  
ST. MARY MAGDALEN, ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST,  
WOLCOTT CLYDE  
ST. MARY OF THE LAKE, ONTARIO