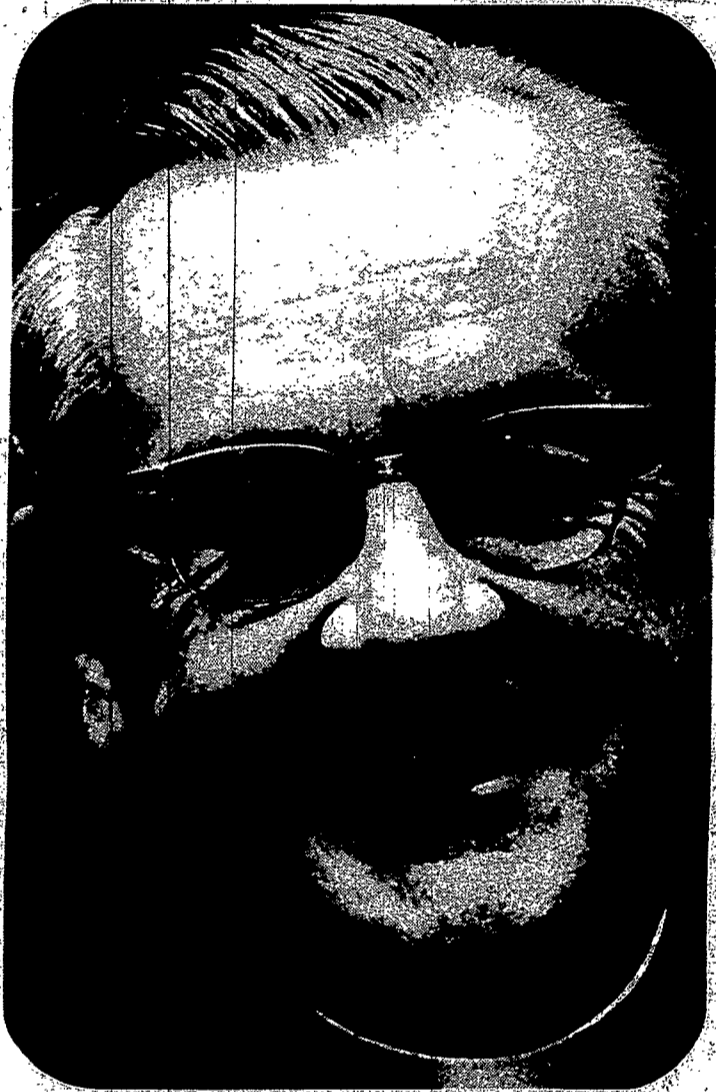


Candid



Bishop Hogan Served In Period of Upheaval

The plain fact is that Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has served the diocese for nine of the most tumultuous years in the history of the Church as well as of the world at large.

The disputation, the tension, the "growing pains," as he described the polarization, all combined to take their cumulative toll. The bishop whose motto is "freely will I spend and be spent" has been spent.

Msgr. Joseph L. Hogan, regarded as a warm, loving person and respected as an academician, succeeded the world renowned Bishop Fulton J. Sheen in 1969 when the latter startled all concerned by retiring from the bishopric a year earlier than required by age.

Diocesan priests rejoiced in the fact that one of their own had been named ordinary. And many were pleased by the choice of the man himself.

That was 1969, the final year of the tumultuous sixties, which saw just about every established institution challenged, threatened or even abolished. The unrest was not at its dizzy apex but nonetheless the mood was uneasy.

Bishop Hogan did not create many of the problems with which he had to deal but he sidestepped very few, speaking out in a manner and context which endeared him to some and embittered others.

He spoke out against the Vietnam War; he opposed the Attica Prison riot prosecution; he issued a statement which many of his priests signed calling for amnesty for Vietnam War protestors; he became a national voice in favor of the workers in their dispute with the Farah slack manufacturers.

He took issue with Vatican pronouncements, making public his disagreement over the refusal to consider the ordination of women and over the sequence of sacraments, Penance and First Communion. He made it known that he favors the ordination of married men, although "nothing can supplant a celibate clergy." The bishop sees an ordained married clergy as supplementary to the celibate priesthood.

Following that line of thinking, he initiated the Permanent Diaconate in the diocese in 1978.

Bishop Hogan has had his disappointments. He confided to close associates recently that two of the bitterest were the closing of King's Prep and the inner city schools.

Such events were symptomatic of the times marked by a shortage of priests, nuns and money.

Nonetheless the diocese under Bishop Hogan accomplished many objectives and established many programs. Perhaps the single most notable achievement was the establishment of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Regionalism was instituted under Bishop Hogan, as were the Stewardship Program, the Continuing Education program at St. Bernard's, the International Justice and Peace Commission, the Office of Black Ministry, the ministry to the Divorced and Separated, the revitalization of the Catholic Worker, the outreach offices of the Office of Human Development, the Human Life Commission, the Office of Planning.

For the first time, under Bishop Hogan, the diocese

began publishing its annual financial report.

On the spiritual side, he approved the Saturday Mass option and Communion in the hand for the diocese.

He was a strong foe of abortion and saw it as inexorably linked to other respect-life issues such as the death penalty, which he openly opposed, euthanasia, poverty, joblessness.

He was a champion of the missions and three times visited dioceses working among the poorest of the poor in Bolivia, Chile, Brazil and Selma, Ala. The new parish of St. Joseph the Worker was chartered in LaPaz, Bolivia, under Bishop Hogan.

He was a champion of women's rights within the Church and that attitude was reflected in his naming Sisters to key operative posts in the diocese. But that same attitude which is seen as reasonable or even prophetic by some also drew heavy criticism from others.

His episcopacy encompassed the death of two local bishops — James E. Kearney and Lawrence B. Casey. Two Popes, Paul VI, who raised him to the episcopate, and John Paul I, also died during Bishop Hogan's tenure. The latter pontiff was a particular favorite of Bishop Hogan's as was Pope John XXIII.

Speaking simply to friends a short time after Pope John Paul I's death, Bishop Hogan said, "I will never forget that man."

He visited Rome for the canonization of two saints, Elizabeth Seton and John Neumann. And as he urged his priests to do, he furthered his own education by attending a

three-month course at the North American College in Rome to keep up with developing theological and religious trends.

He issued hundreds of pastoral messages to his people but two were of particular significance. On the occasion of his sixth anniversary as bishop, he issued "You Are Living Stones," a kind of blueprint for his vision of the Church of Rochester. In 1978, he issued a followup called "Focus, 1977-78" in which he sized up diocesan accomplishments under "New Beginnings" and diocesan plans under "New Directions."

Bishop Hogan also is responsible for another major innovation in the Catholic Church. He is probably the first bishop in history to publish his Ad Limina report to the Pope. The Ad Limina is required of every ordinary in the Church every five years and they must present it in person to the pontiff. It covers the progress, achievements, and problems of the diocese.

In April of this year, Bishop Hogan published his in the Courier-Journal simultaneously with presenting it to Pope Paul VI. His action was destined to be followed by other bishops.

It is felt in many quarters that overwork and pressure brought about the untimely death of Pope John Paul I in a few weeks as pontiff.

The endless tension, the demanded social appearances, the seemingly interminable round of meetings, and the extremely difficult decisions on unprecedented problems fashioned by a stormy period of history all added up over a nine-year period and obviously took away the health of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

Fr. Conboy A Personal Perspective

BY FATHER
MICHAEL CONBOY
Former secretary to
Bishop Hogan

The news of Bishop Hogan's retirement as the seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester prompts me to express publicly a word of appreciation for his dedicated and zealous shepherding of the People of God in the Church of Rochester during the past nine years.

I remember well the news release of October 15, 1969 stating that Monsignor Joseph L. Hogan was appointed to succeed retiring Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, D.D. At that time Monsignor Hogan was my Pastor at St. Margaret Mary's Parish in Irondequoit, New York. It was indeed a great day for us when, on November 28, 1969, Bishop Hogan was ordained to the fullness of

the priesthood and was welcomed as our Chief Pastor, Priest and Teacher. Well chosen was his motto: "Gladly will I spend and be spent." (St. Paul's words to his beloved community at Corinth.)

The years of Bishop Hogan's Episcopal Ministry have been filled with many hope-filled and encouraging signs of renewed interest and vitality for our church as we pilgrimage toward the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God here on Earth. During the years of Bishop Hogan's episcopate he faithfully implemented the liturgical directives called for by Vatican Council II, established various consultative processes in our diocese and taught us all, by word and example, of the love that the Lord has for each of us. The Bishop's weekly columns in the Courier-Journal have been a constant

inspiration. His monumental document, Living Stones, written on the occasion of his sixth anniversary as our bishop, is a relevant and timely as the day it was promulgated. The Bishop's challenge to us to grow in the spirit has encouraged and awakened us to new possibilities for our lives.

Personally, I have enjoyed my many years of close association with Bishop Hogan. We started out at St. Margaret Mary's Parish. Later I served as his secretary throughout most of his administration. It was my happy privilege and a personal grace to have been so closely associated with the Bishop in the everyday work of his ministry. I have always found our Bishop to be a gentle, patient, sensitive and caring person. During his tenure, he has had to make a lot of decisions, some at times most difficult and painful. He always opted to do what was pastorally best for his people. I am glad to have been a part of Bishop



Hogan's administration and personal life.

Now the task is completed. His work, his ministry, as our seventh bishop is done. I wish Bishop Hogan well and pray that his years ahead will be filled with much joy and happiness, as he continues to minister to the People of God. Truly, he has given himself to the Lord with glad heart in service to the Church in Rochester. "Well done, good and faithful servant!"